■ Elan / C2
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Fil-Am biologist makes science fun

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Police say media killings not orchestrated

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Super birthday party bash with an exclamation mark!

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Party-list solons want seat in CA

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Pambayad sa utang: Kung 'di bagong buwis, ano?
WIN A 21" TV! TEXT 2910

For measly P20 'kotong,' checkpoint cop to lose job

BAKA PWEDE PANG AYUSIN YAN

By Christian Esguerra and Tonette Orejas

EASY come, easy go.

For easy money worth a measly P20, SPO2 Reynaldo Buan might lose his job. The Philippine National

FOR MEASLY/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

GMA China agenda: Railway project costing P1B per km

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

IT SEEMS like a gargantuan project for a country struggling with a mountainous budget deficit.

When President Macapagal-Arroyo goes to China for a state visit next month, on top of her goals is to iron out the final terms of the

GMA CHINA/ A8

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, August 14, 2004 ★★★ 84 pages / 11 sections / vol. 19 / no. 248 P18 website: www.inq7.net

19 Abus each get 3 death terms for Lamitan kidnap

What went before

In the siege of Lamitan, Basilan, on June 2, 2001, the Abu Sayyaf took over a church and hospital; held hostage 200 persons. They included Gracia and Martin Burnham and 18 others kidnapped from Dos Palmas in Palawan. The kidnappers escaped a military cordon with some of their Dos Palmas hostages plus four hospital workers, including nurse Edibora Yap.

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA CITY, Basilan—Some broke into tears. Others were defiant to the end.

The crowd hurled curses at them.

In an unprecedented decision and amid heavy security, a local judge yesterday condemned 19 Abu Sayyaf bandits to death for their involvement in the abduction of hospital workers during the June 2001 Lamitan siege.

19 ABUS/ A20

THE DAY of reckoning has come for 13 Abu Sayyaf members (standing) at the Regional Trial Court of Isabela, Basilan, on Friday. Seated at left is lawyer Mark Jalandoni of the Department of Justice's Witness Protection Program. Behind him is State Prosecutor Leo Dacera III.

TROY MALCOLM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU CONTRIBUTOR

Bombs kill 17 terrorists

WAR games can be deadly serious for Filipino troops undergoing antiterrorist training by American Army soldiers (standing center) on Thursday in the remote village of San Roque in Zamboanga. The counterterrorism warfare now ongoing in different parts of Mindanao is part of the United States government's security assistance program.

AP

AFP hits Pentagon's lair in Maguindanao

By Edwin O. Fernandez and Jeffrey Tupaz, *PDI Mindanao Bureau* and Alcuin Papa *in Manila*

MILITARY attack helicopters pounded the suspected hideout of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom group, and at least 17 members were believed to have been killed in the Liguasan marsh area in Central Mindanao yesterday.

The major attack by government forces on the village of Lumabao in Sultan Kudarat Pendatun, Maguindanao, had a lot of help from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The target area is under the control of the MILF. The MILF and the government had signed a ceasefire agreement while negotiators are crafting a political settlement.

"This is part of our commitment to help the government against organized crime and terrorism," Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said.

The Pentagon gang has been listed by the United States as a terrorist group and has been involved in the abduction of locals and foreigners mostly in central Mindanao.

The MILF said it approved the military's request to drop bombs on the Pentagon lair.

Kabalu said the bombing sortie started at 6 a.m. Friday and lasted for about 15 minutes.

"It has been coordinated with the joint ceasefire committees and we approved it," Kabalu said.

He said the target of the bombing, which was carried out by two MG520 helicopters, was the Pentagon gang headed by Alonto

BOMBS KILL/ A20

Raps ordered filed vs 15 cops in 'Abadilla 5' case

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has ordered the filing of criminal charges against 15 policemen for alleged violation of the constitutional rights of seven men arrested for the killing of Col. Rolando Abadilla in 1996.

The DOJ panel led by Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Leah Tandodra-Armamento recommended the indictment of the 15 policemen for not respecting the rights of suspects Arturo Napolitano, Romeo Costibolo, Lorenzo de los Santos and four members of the so-called Abadilla Five—Lenido Lumanog, SPO2 Cesar Fortuna, Joel de Jesus and Rameses de Jesus—during their arrest and detention.

Napolitano, Costibolo and De los Santos have been cleared of the murder charges.

On Aug. 11, 1999, the Quezon City Regional Trial Court convicted the Abadilla 5—including Augusto Santos—for the ambush of Abadilla on June 13, 1996, and

RAPS/ A20

Judge comes to grief on Friday, 13th

By Philip C. Tubeza

IS IT merely coincidental that this judge lost his job on a Friday the 13th after sitting on two civil cases for 13 years?

The Supreme Court kicked Caloocan Judge Jaime T. Hamoy out of the judiciary for gross misconduct and gross inefficiency, saying that he was "unfit" for the job and that he had already been admonished in March 2002 for not resolving other cases in his court on time.

"All told, [he] failed to live up to the exacting standards of his office," the tribunal said in an eight-page decision. "The magnitude of his transgressions, taken collectively, renders him unfit to don the judicial robe and to perform the functions of a magistrate. Therefore, the imposition of the supreme penalty of dismissal from the service is warranted."

According to the high court, judges have three months to resolve

JUDGE/ A20

RP team is 'lean, mean' in tightly guarded Games

By Artemio Engracia Jr.

ATHENS—Tightly shielded from terrorists, the Olympic Games returned on Friday to the ancient land where it was born and to the historic city of its rebirth.

Steeped in history and tradition and haunted by the threat of global terrorism, the Games was to open in the sweltering heat of the Athenian summer with most of the 10,000 athletes representing the youth of the world marching in front of an expected capacity crowd of 72,000.

A total of 110,000 security personnel, or 11 for every athlete, will be on duty during the games in a massive show of strength.

The Philippines was at the grand homecoming. Its delegation was to march sixth to last in the parade of athletes from 201 countries and territories in ceremonies expected to last well past midnight at the Olympic Stadium here.

East Timor takes part for the first time since it achieved full independence two years ago.

The slogan "Welcome home" is emblazoned in bright Olympic colors all over Athens, which in 1896 hosted the modern rebirth of the quadrennial games first staged in ancient Olympia 2,700 years ago.

Following Olympic tradition, the Greek flag was to march first and last in the parade of athletes—first as the venue of the ancient games and last as host of the present one.

The rest of the delegations were to enter in Greek alphabetical order. The Philippine contingent, described by officials as "lean and mean," was 197th according to the Greek alphabet.

Filipino officials, headed by chef de mission Steve Hontiveros, were to march behind the Philippine tricolor.

First to see action among the 16 Filipino athletes competing here are the swimmers, Miguel Molina, Miguel Mendoza and Rapahael Chua. They will kick off

RP TEAM/ A20

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

THEY KILL JOURNALISTS, DON'T THEY?
Members of the media in Davao City hold an indignation rally and offer flowers and candles in memory of the 55 Filipino journalists murdered since 1986. *(Story on Page A2.)*

NPA to release two soldiers next week

By Christian V. Esguerra

SOON, they will taste freedom again.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo last night ordered a suspension of military and police operations against communist rebels, clearing the way for the release of two Army soldiers held by the New People's Army, chief government negotiator Silvestre Bello III said.

The two Army captives, Lt. Ronald Fidelino and Pfc. Rommel Nemeño, "will be released anytime from Aug. 18 to 20," Bello told the INQUIRER.

"Definitely, they can't be released in time for Fidelino's daughter's second birthday on Aug. 16. But the more important thing is they will be released," he added.

He said Ms Arroyo ordered the suspension of military operations (Somo) and the suspension of po-

NPA TO RELEASE/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western sections of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy with rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/14/04

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FrontPage

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Spate of media killings not orchestrated–PNP

By Christian V. Esguerra

JOURNALISTS are being gunned down at an alarming rate but the Philippine National Police is not worried.

"There's no need to be alarmed," said Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao, who heads the Task Force Newsman which was formed to handle the latest spate of journalist killings.

"The motives are different. It just so happened that the incidents happened one after another," said Lomibao.

Only a few hours before Lomibao assured the INQUIRER that there was no "persecution" of journalists, a radio broadcaster who may have angered drug gangs for leading an antidrug campaign on air was shot and wounded yesterday in Bukidnon province.

Eduardo Dalida, a commentator for Radio Mindanao Network's local affiliate, was walking near the public market in Valencia City at about 5 a.m. when a man shot him, hitting his left hand.

Dalida, 32, who believes he survived an assassination attempt and that drug gangs operating in Valencia were responsible, was the latest victim in a string of violence against journalists.

Six journalists have been killed so far this year, four in a span of two weeks. But authorities said two of the cases "do not appear to be work-related."

At least 47 journalists have been killed in work-related incidents since democracy was restored in 1986.

Lomibao said that since it was apparent that there was no "orchestrated" assault on media practitioners, the police would solve the journalist murders on a case-to-case basis.

He said the attack on Dalida was quite different from the killings of Fernando Cosignado, Jonathan Abayon, Arnel Manalo and Roger Mariano.

He claimed that Dalida was no longer an active correspondent of the Church-run Radio Veritas and was never a hard-hitting reporter during his prime.

He said the killing of Abayon, the GMA-7 television correspondent who was gunned down in General Santos City, was the result of a personal conflict with boxing champion Manny Pacquiao's bodyguard William Bael.

Authorities are still looking into several angles to determine the real motive behind the killings of broadcaster Mariano in Ilocos Norte and tabloid correspondent Manalo in Batangas.

Lomibao's task force, a team of PNP units including the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group which he leads, was formed shortly after the killing of Manalo.

The other measure is PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.'s controversial proposal that journalists under threat purchase firearms and apply for a permit to carry these guns outside of their homes.

Dalida, who hosts the "Kuskos-Batikos" commentary program on the dxBR station, said he was just getting out of a tricycle at the Valencia central market when he was shot. *With reports from Grace C. Albasin and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Journalists turn paranoid

VETERAN print and radio journalist Juan Balagtas does not leave his home in volatile Zamboanga City without a loaded .45 caliber handgun.

He drives around in a heavily tinted van and pays a bodyguard to watch his back as he heads to the local radio station, where his popular program attacking corrupt politicians and Islamic militants airs daily.

"I carry a .45-cal. pistol if I go out. It's difficult to move around when you know you have enemies," said Balagtas (not his real name) who also writes for a Manila-based broad sheet.

If he revealed his real name, he said, "I may not live tomorrow."

Zamboanga is a hotbed of al-Qaida-linked Islamic militants as well as political warlords who have private armies that are often better armed than the police and the military.

A rising tide of killings has targeted journalists in the country. Six reporters have been killed so far this year.

Police said they would ease restrictions on gun permits for journalists, triggering a heated debate in a country where a proliferation of unlicensed firearms is blamed for rising crime.

Balagtas said only bona fide members of the press whose lives were in danger should be allowed to arm themselves.

"You don't really have to own a firearm if you're not under threat and you know you didn't do anything wrong," he said.

Three years ago, a colleague was gunned down outside his home after allegedly angering a politician.

Balagtas himself had to lie low for months after receiving threats and being followed by a man the police had identified as a suspect in a friend's murder.

The suspect in his friend's killing remains at large, with the family failing to pursue the case in court after a witness was also killed.

Jaime Laude, a newspaper journalist covering the police and military beats in Manila, also owns a handgun. Unlike other journalists, however, he has undergone rigid training in handling firearms.

"In this trade, especially when you cover the police and political beats, you are exposed to threats to your life. You do your work and sometimes people get hurt," Laude said. *AFP*

BUSINESS MEET

President Mapacapal-Arroyo greets delegates to the 10th Asean Business Advisory Council meeting during a dialogue at the Malacañang Palace. ***(Story on Page A9)*** VAL HALDUMON

Palace forms committee to handle PR problems

By Gil Cabacungan

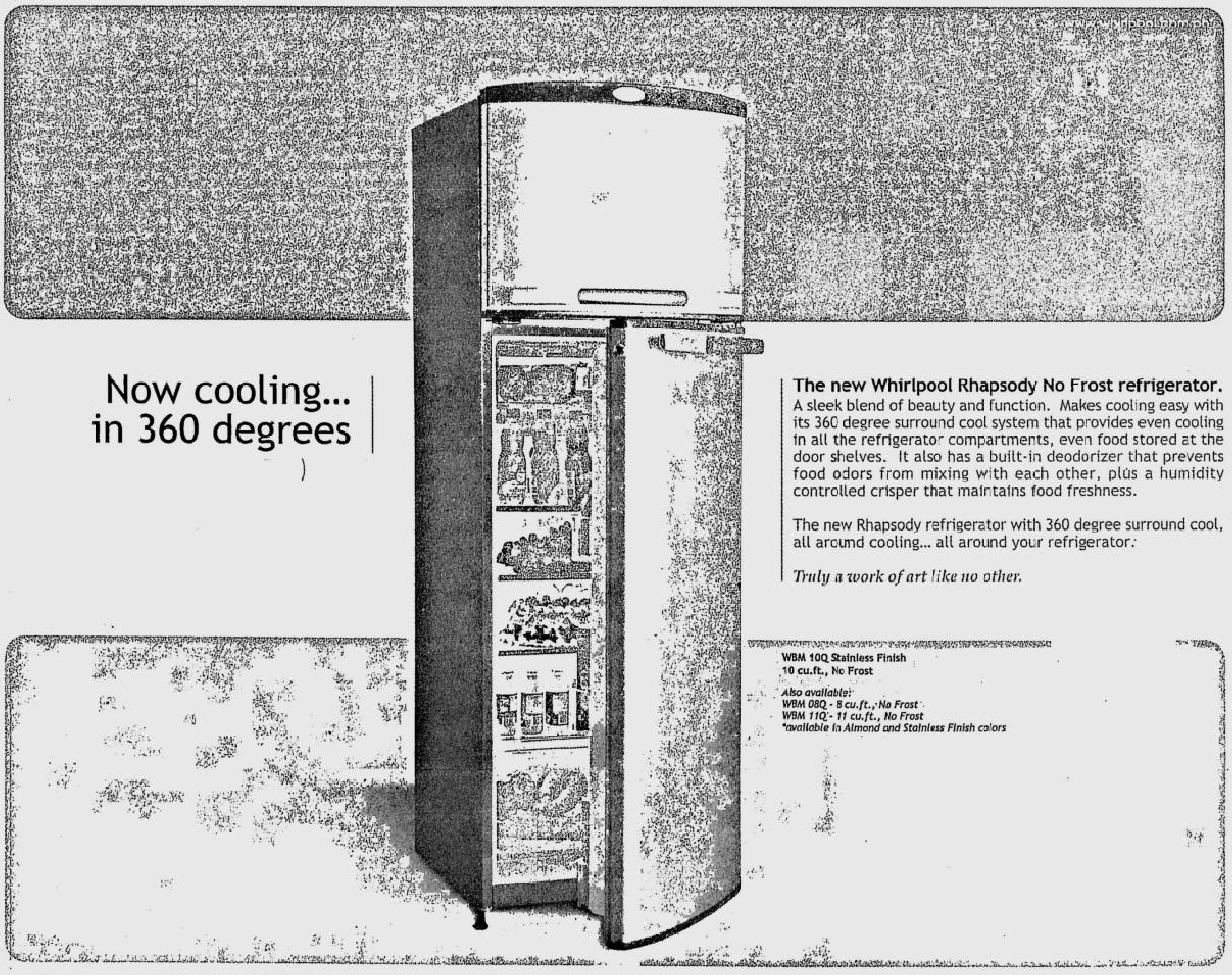
PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is beefing up Malacañang's ability to deal with public relations crises and getting the pulse of the public in making policy decisions as she prepares to make tough reforms in the next six years.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Ms Arroyo saw the need to form a Crisis Communication Team to handle extraordinary events affecting the government, such as the Iraq hostage crisis and last year's Oakwood mutiny.

"The President believes this type of arrangement, which was successful in dealing with the Angelo de la Cruz crisis, should be replicated. We have to respond to these situations in a very special way," Bunye said.

Malacañang had imposed a news blackout to control sensitive information that could affect the negotiations then between government emissaries and De la Cruz's captors. Still, the President committed a major blunder when, using unverified information from Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, she prematurely told De la Cruz's wife that her husband had been released.

Aside from a special team for crisis PR, Bunye said the President saw it fit to institutionalize her in-house survey group with the formation of a Communications Research Group.



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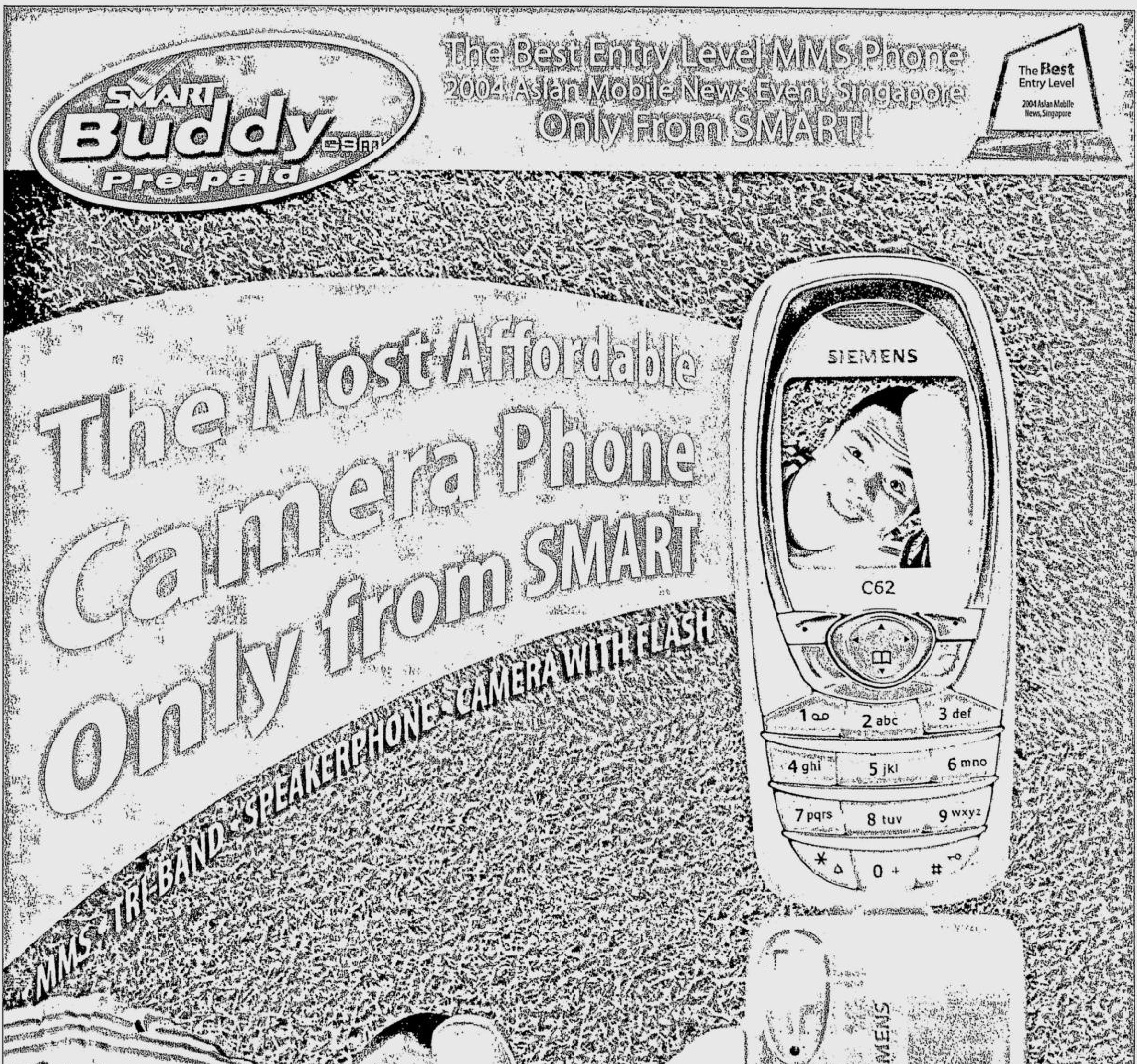
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Drug users hit 3.4 M as of July, says PNP

By Martin P. Marfil

THE PHILIPPINE National Police has estimated that there were 3.4 million drug users in the Philippines as of July, almost double the 1.8 million figure a month before.

There are 215 major drug gangs in the country which earn more than $5 billion a year from the illegal trade and reports say that about one-fourth of the country's elected officials have one way or another profited from involvement in the drug trade.

Seventy percent of heinous crimes filed in the courts are drug-related and 65 percent of prison inmates are in jail for drug-related crimes.

Drug prevalence among women almost tripled from one percent in 1974 to 3.2 percent in 2002.

At an early age

Worse, a growing number of Filipino youths—including young children—are starting to use drugs at an early age, with drug-use almost doubling from 10.9 percent in 1994 to 19.7 percent in 2002.

These were just some of the data presented at the two-day National Conference on Children in Drugs that ended on Thursday.

The conference, which included representatives from government, non-government organizations and research institutions, was called to draw up plans to protect children against drug abuse and eliminate the involvement of the youth in the production, sale and trafficking of drugs.

One of the studies that was presented at the conference said that Filipino children are being initiated into drug use by people close to them, like friends, peers, family, relatives and neighbors who are engaged in drug use, sales and trafficking.

Peer influence

"While peer influence is a major factor in children being recruited into the drug network, children are mainly used as runners by their parents or other adults... Younger children are starting to become players in the drug trade, delivering drugs to customers since authorities are not suspicious of them," said the study which was conducted by a team headed by Emma Porio of the Ateneo de Manila University's sociology department.

The study, conducted over a span of two years, focused on several urban poor barangays in Tatalon, Quezon City, Paco in Manila and Barangays 91 and 92 in Pasay City.

In 1999, the team found that child users were predominantly male, from 15 to 17 years old.

As young as 12

But in 2004, children as young as 12 were being introduced to drugs and methamphetamine hydrochloride, or shabu, remains the most popular drug.

In Tatalon, the study said that the average age of child users was 15 and that most were male.

"Ninety-six percent (of children) are familiar with drugs and trafficking, owing mainly to family, followed by peers and neighbors," the study said.

In Pasay, the average age of children-users was 12 and that 89 percent of the children in the communities were familiar with drug-use and trafficking while in Paco, the average age was 14 and 77 percent were shabu users.

Most popular drug

But in Paco, the most popular drug was rugby although 89 percent of the children in the community were familiar with drugs.

The study also said that in all three communities, the children were being utilized as drug-pushers and watchers.

The study was one of "rapid assessment studies" that the International Labor Organization-International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (ILO-IPEC) commissioned which concluded that a high proportion of children in urban communities in Metro Manila and Cebu were highly "at risk" to drugs.

In 2002, ILO-IPEC initiated research projects in the Philippines and Thailand in coordination with Ateneo and several non-government organizations.

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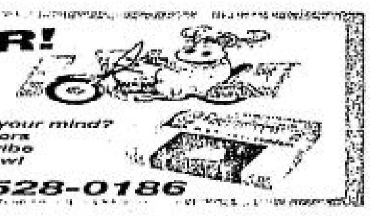

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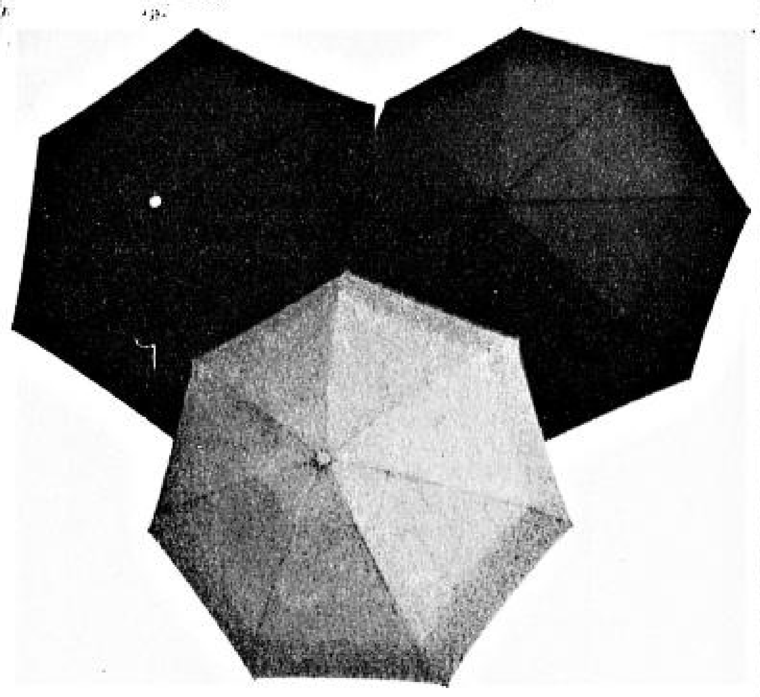

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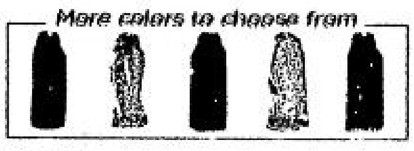

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Palace to invite Joker to Ledac meetings

By Gil C. Cabacungan

MALACAÑANG will make sure that Sen. Joker Arroyo gets an invitation to the next Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac) meeting in an apparent move to appease the feisty congressman who has been a harsh critic of President Macapagal-Arroyo's tax program.

"I believe it would be best to invite Senator Arroyo in future Ledac meetings," said Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye on learning that Arroyo, despite being an administration ally, has never been invited to attend the Ledac meetings since his election to the Senate.

Arroyo, who has admitted to being envious of his colleagues who are consulted by the President, .called the government's economic managers and administration legislators supporting the President's tax reform package "tax terrorists."

His comment did not sit well with the President who called it "offensive labeling" and urged for more principled discussions.

The President has proposed eight tax measures, including an additional P2 per liter tax on petroleum products and a tax on windfall profits of telecoms firms to help tame the budget deficit.

But a number of legislators, including Arroyo, have opposed the additional taxes, saying that the government should improve the revenue-collection efforts of tax-collecting agencies before imposing new taxes.

Bunye said the virtual snub of Arroyo was not deliberate as it was the National Economic and Development Authority, not Malacañang, that decides who are to be invited to the discussions between the executive and the legislative branch on administration-proposed bills.

He send the Neda sends out invitations "proportionate to their (the legislators') representation".

Aside from making amends for the oversight, Bunye thanked Arroyo for his "unsolicited advice" that the President take a rest.

" I think the President knows what's best for her and she knows she will have to do whatever is necessary for her to be able to do her job as good as possible," he said.

Bunye also dismissed suggestions that the President was exhausted after a backbreaking 90-day election campaign, the chronic stress of waiting for her formal inauguration, and the serious crises she had tackle immediately after starting her new term, particularly the Angelo de la Cruz hostage crisis in Iraq.

He said the President had "unlimited energies".

Even her testiness—displayed in the last Pulong Bayan on Wednesday when she continually picked on presidential adviser Conrado Limcauco—should not be misconstrued as a sign of fatigue, he said.

"That happens to us also when we are not satisfied with the way things are and when our instructions are not strictly followed. This is not a sign that she's tired, that happens to you and me and everyone else," Bunye said.

ARROYO: To sit in the council with "tax terrorists."

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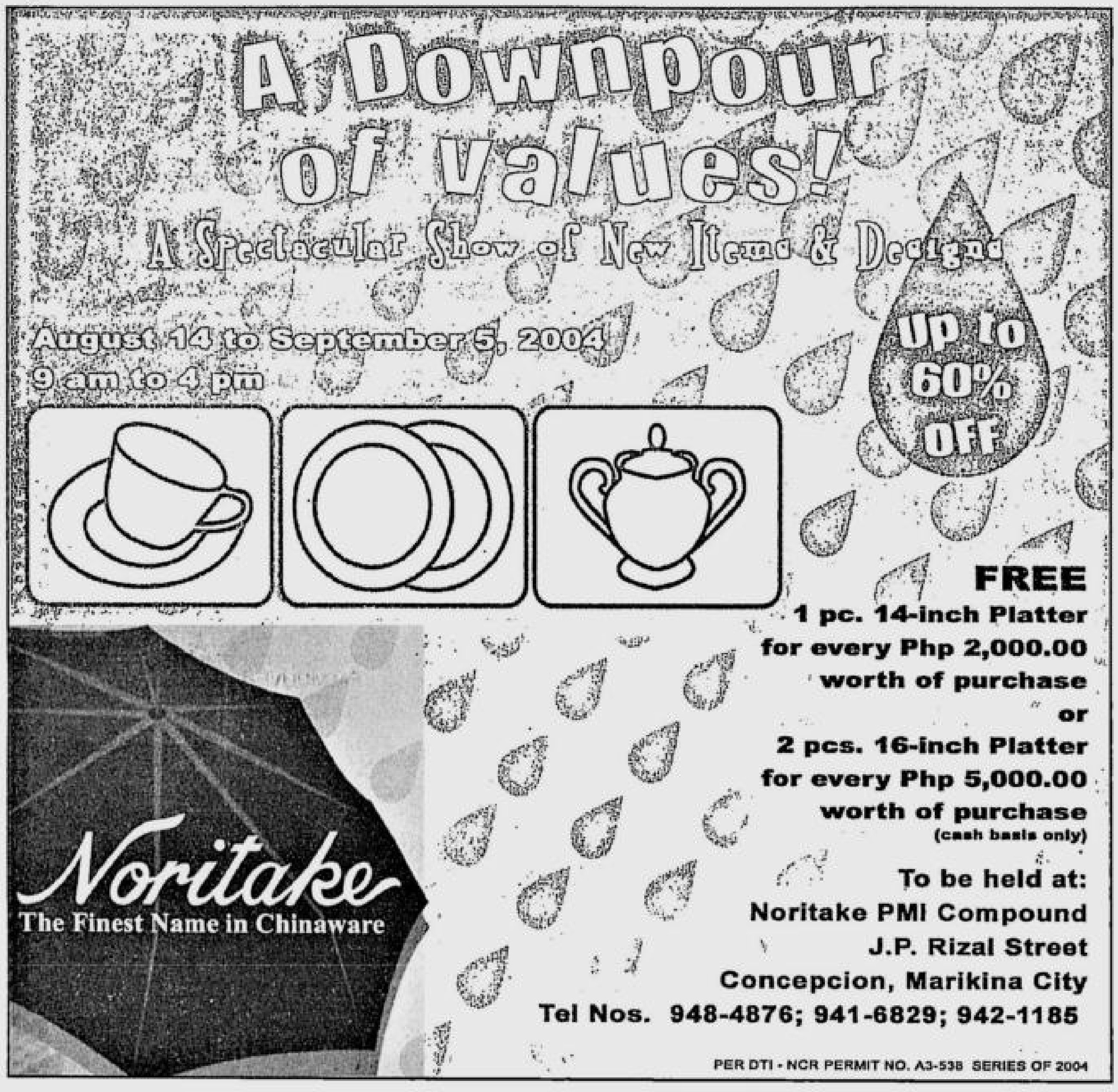

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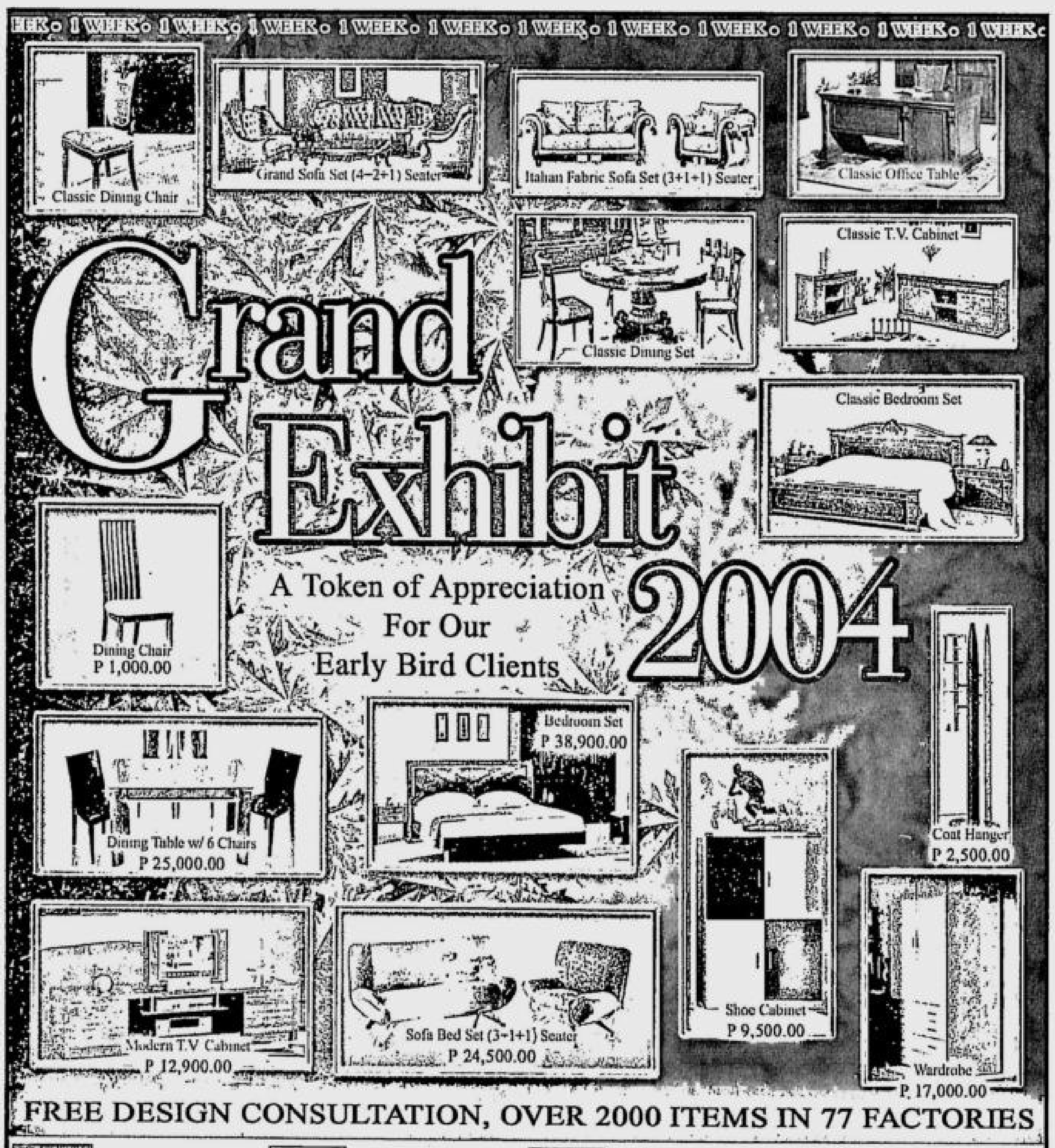

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Pagulayan gets dual citizenship

PAGULAYAN: "100 percent Filipino."

By Martin P. Marfil

WORLD pool champion Alex Pagulayan, the Canadian immigrant who had previously described himself as "110 percent Filipino," legally became a Filipino citizen yesterday after the Bureau of Immigration granted his petition for dual citizenship.

Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. signed the order granting Pagulayan's petition to reacquire his Philippine citizenship under the dual citizenship law which was passed last year.

Pagulayan, who is abroad, is required to present himself to the bureau upon his return to Manila to submit his fingerprints and secure his identification certificate.

Lawyer Arvin Santos, who heads the BI task force that screens applicants for dual citizenship, said in a statement that Pagulayan met all the qualifications prescribed under Republic Act 9225, the Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act.

Santos said Pagulayan will retain his Canadian citizenship and at the same time enjoy all the rights and privileges of a Filipino citizen.

Pagulayan, whose full name is Alejandro Salvador Pagulayan, lost his Philippine citizenship in the early '90s when his family migrated to Canada and applied for naturalization.

He was born in Cabagan, Isabela on June 25, 1978 to Remigio and Sonia Pagulayan who were also natural-born Filipinos before becoming Canadian citizens. He continues to visit their relatives in the province.

Pagulayan won the 2004 World Pool Championships in Taipei last month. He dedicated his victory to the Filipino people.

The BI said Pagulayan, by virtue of his being a Filipino citizen, can now represent the Philippines in international billiards tournaments.

Pagulayan was eliminated from the 14th Annual International Challenge of Champions at the Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut last Wednesday when he and fellow Filipino pool master Django Bustamante, the tournament's defending champion, lost to their rivals.

GMA sets China state visit

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will visit China on Sept. 2-3, Malacañang announced yesterday.

The President's trip to Beijing was elevated from a working visit to a state visit, according to Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye.

"The invitation was from the government of China so we classify it as a state visit," he explained. In a state visit, the host country shoulders the expenses of the visiting head of state.

While in Beijing, Ms Arroyo will attend a meeting of parliamentarians and political parties.

"She's going there in her capacity as head of her party, which is the Lakas-CMD-Kampi," Bunye said.

This would be Ms Arroyo's first foreign trip since winning a full term in the May 10 presidential election.

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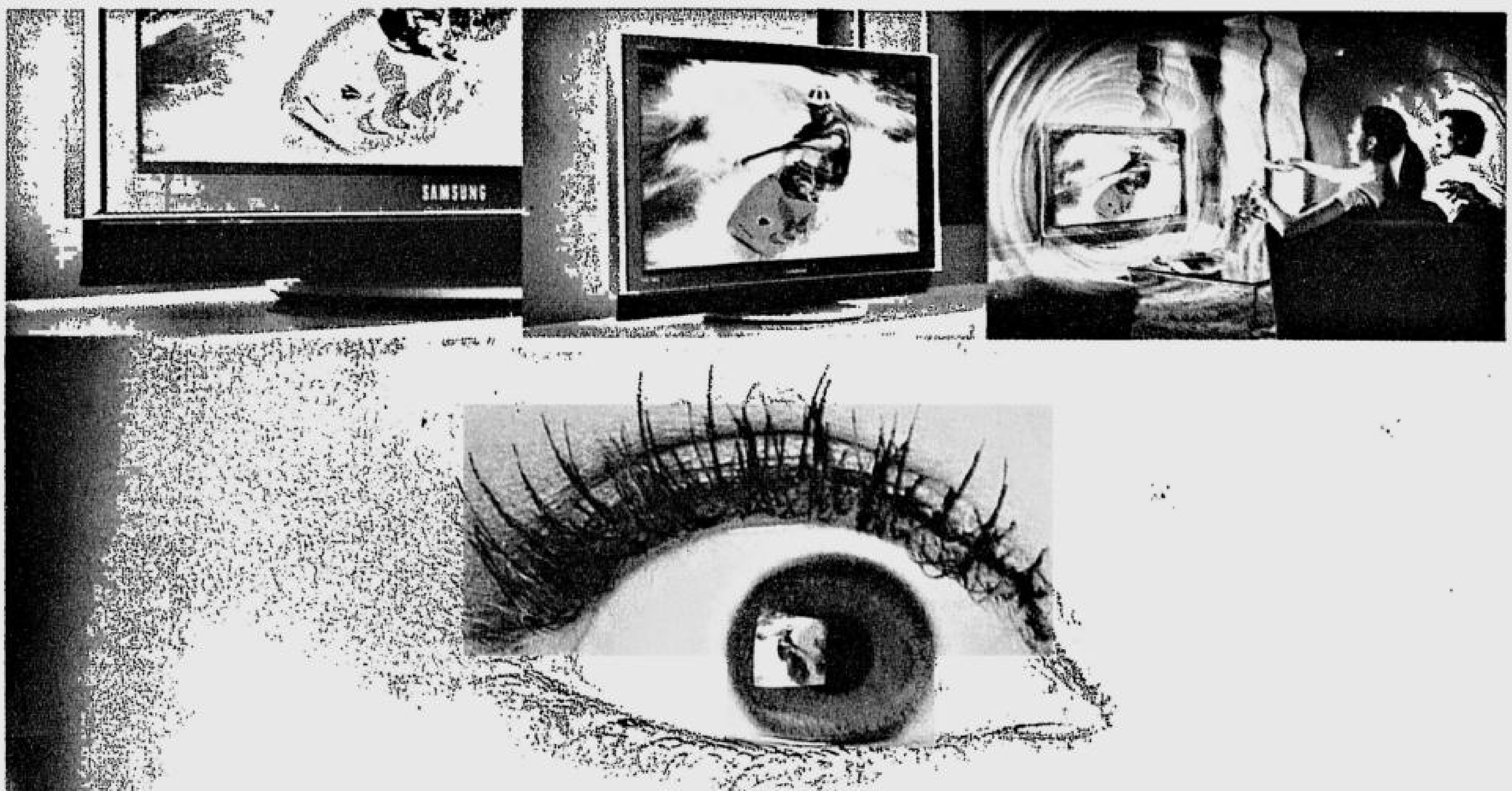

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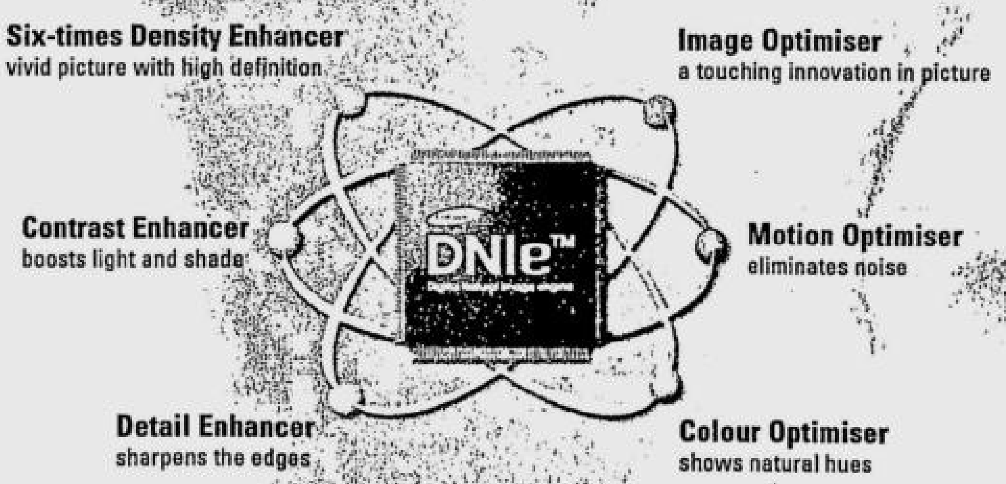

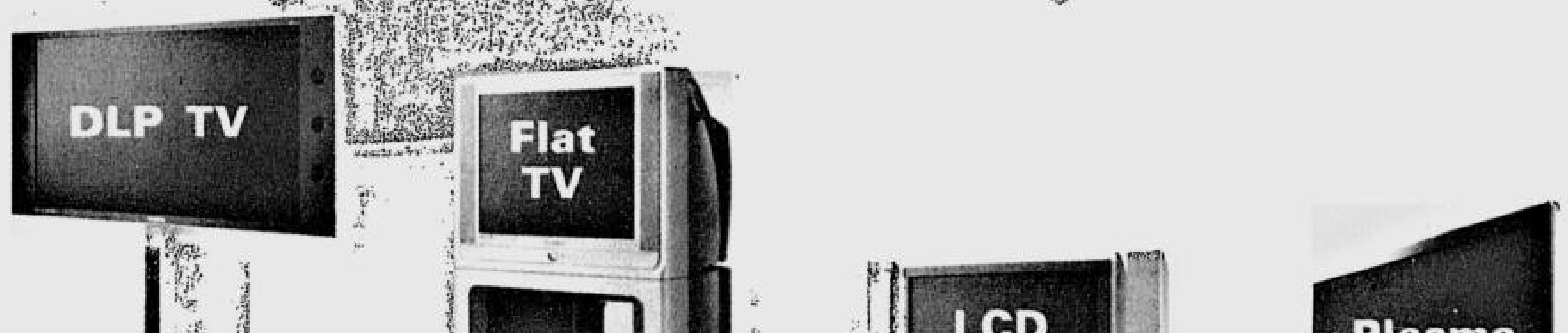

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GMA China agenda: Railway project costing ₱1B per km

From page A1

Northrail project of North Luzon Railways Corp. (NLRC).

The project aims to build a commuter rail from Metro Manila to Bulacan at a cost of—hold on to your seats—nearly P1 billion per kilometer.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said yesterday that Ms Arroyo herself had declared that the $503 million (P28 billion), 32.138-kilometer project would be her "number one priority" in her four-day trip to China starting from Sept. 2.

The loan will bankroll Phase I, Section 1 of Northrail that would run from Caloocan, Valenzuela, Marilao, Bocaue, Guiguinto to Malolos, Bulacan.

"China will be the leading funding source for the Northrail project, which was why the details of the implementation would surely be discussed during the visit," Bunye said in an interview with dzRB radio.

The bulk of Northrail's funding, or $395 million, would come from the state-run Export Import Bank of China, which signed early this year a loan agreement with NLRC.

The balance of $108 million will be borrowed by the NLRC through commercial loans.

Revenue forecasts

While the railway's cost appears to be gargantuan, National Economic and Development Authority infrastructure consultant Ruben Reynoso told the INQUIRER that the government deemed the project feasible based on revenue forecasts that used projections on traffic volumes.

"It's a very dense corridor," Reynoso said.

Northrail's income performance is critical because it will determine whether the government can pay off the P28-billion loan it assumed to build the project.

The Northrail project has been on the drawing board since the Ramos administration but funding problems and consortium squabbles hampered the plan.

Last year, Speaker Jose de Venecia engineered the entry of the Chinese government into the project. De Venecia's protege, Neda Director General Romulo Neri, aggressively pushed the project and it was approved by the Investment Coordination Committee-Cabinet Committee (ICC-CC) in December last year.

China's demands

Reynoso said the China Eximbank loan was the key to the implementation of Northrail as China had agreed to extend concessional terms for the project—payable in 20 years (with sever years grace) and at an interest rate of 3 percent annually.

As part of the loan agreement with China, Reynoso said the government has agreed to the China Eximbank's demands that the contractor and all labor and construction materials be provided by Chinese nationals.

Reynoso said that Northrail's cost was "just typical" when compared to the Mass Rail Transit (MRT) 7, which will cost $600 million for a 22-km line or P1.5 billion.

Reynoso, however, admitted that the MRT would use the more expensive electrified trains while Northrail would only use the multiple-diesel trains.

Relocating squatters

When pressed how much it would cost to build a typical multiple-diesel train, Reynoso said he could not remember.

A railway expert belonging to one of the companies operating a railway in the country said that a diesel-fed train should cost no more than $3 million per kilometer to build.

Reynoso said that the project cost was bloated by the huge cost of relocating the squatters and purchasing right of way property for the six stations and railroad.

He said the amount for relocation of the squatters could reach up to P5 billion.

The project will involve the reconstruction and conversion of the existing Philippine National Railways (PNR) track into double track, land acquisition for the areas where the existing PNR track is too narrow, utilities diversion, procurement of 30 4-car DMU (diesel multiple units type) train sets, and provision of train control and signaling system.

View from the outside

A construction expert, who has been consulted by the Senate on the investigation of the overpriced Diosdado Macapagal Highway and the Subic-Clark Tollway, said the project's concept—decongesting Metro Manila by cutting down travel time to its suburbs to an average of 30 minutes—was sound.

However, the expert said the government should also consider whether or not the cost of undertaking the project was reasonable in terms of the benefits to be derived.

The expert said the government should first verify other alternative transport means that could speed up travel time at more reasonable costs.

De Venecia was out of town and could not be reached for comment while Neri did not return the INQUIRER's call.

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(PDI – August 1, 2, 7-9, 14-16, 21-23 & 28-30, 2004)

NPA to release 2 soldiers

From page A1

lice operations (Sopo) against the NPA in some areas of the Bicol region shortly before 9 p.m.

The suspension of operations would last until seven days after the release of the two captives, according to Bello.

The rebels, who captured Fidelino and Nemeño on Feb. 29 after a five-hour clash with an Army patrol in a remote village in Tinambac town in Camarines Sur, have demanded a halt in government offensives in Albay, Camarines Sur and Camarines Norte provinces as a condition for the release of the prisoners.

Verifying Somo

"The President just declared Somo and Sopo solely to secure the safe release of the two captives," Bello said.

The two soldiers are being held by the NPA's Romulo Jallores Command in the Bicol region.

Earlier, Gregorio Rosal, Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson, said in a statement that the two captives would be released "as soon as the NPA is able to verify the strict compliance of the AFP and PNP with the Somo order."

The rebels have also been waiting for Malacañang's announcement of a suspension of government operations against the insurgents.

In an earlier mobile phone interview, Rosal warned that any violation of the suspension of operations agreement would have consequences on the release of the prisoners.

"We originally wanted to release the two POWs before the second birthday of Lt. Fidelino's daughter Alea Nicole on Aug. 16," Rosal said.

"Barring no hitches, Fidelino's daughter would soon see her father for a belated birthday party," he said. *With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

For measly P20 'kotong,' checkpoint cop to lose job

From page A1

Police announced that Buan was caught in the act of demanding and receiving a marked P20 bill during an entrapment operation at a checkpoint in Cabanatuan City Thursday night.

If found guilty, Buan, a member of the Cabanatuan police's mobile unit, could be dismissed from the service.

The junior officer was set up by a PNP "honesty team" based in Cabanatuan, according to a police report.

Supposedly acting on a complaint, the team had an agent pose as a truck driver who passed through the checkpoint at which Buan was assigned in Sumacab Este town at around 11 p.m. Monday.

Buan allegedly demanded P20 from the driver, and other team members arrested him as soon as he received the marked money.

His fellow officers assigned at the checkpoint were also invited for questioning.

Laboratory tests have allegedly shown that Buan had indeed touched the marked money.

One more

At least one other Nueva Ecija policeman has bitten the dust in the "honesty" campaign in seven Central Luzon provinces.

The campaign was launched more than two weeks ago by Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, Central Luzon police director, as part of Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes' renewed crackdown on mulcting cops.

Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, chief of the regional intelligence unit, said SPO1 Armado Telles of the San Leonardo police was caught escorting a jeep loaded with some 1,000 board feet of narra from Dipaculao, Aurora, also on Thursday.

Espina said that Buan and Telles had each been stripped of their service firearm, and that criminal and administrative charges were being readied against them.

Querol said the PNP had organized entrapment operations in response to complaints of police extortion at checkpoints.

He said extortion had become so prevalent in some areas that many truck drivers just tossed out crumpled bills whenever they passed by checkpoints.

"I have issued the necessary warning to all errant cops in Central Luzon: Let it be said once more that good cops will not stop from running after them," Querol said.

But Espina said complaints against alleged mulcting policemen, received mostly through text messages, were still being validated.

"We're cautious of information that may be part of a smear campaign," he said.

Selective weeding

But some police officers are not too thrilled by the "honesty teams" assigned to pursue the so-called "*kotong*" and "*hulidap*" cops.

They worry that these teams are engaged in "selective weeding."

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a junior officer told the INQUIRER in Camp Olivas, Pampanga, that the anti-mulcting campaign was "a good way of cleansing the ranks of crooks."

"But it's bound to fail if those who are receiving protection money or directly involved in *jueteng*, illegal drugs, kidnapping, car theft and prostitution syndicates are not touched," he pointed out.

The officer said sparing the big fish would not help the PNP redeem its credibility.

If the campaign fails, he warned, "it will breed dissent in the ranks."

Encompassing

Another officer said he hoped that the drive would be "encompassing."

He said corruption had little reason to exist in the PNP because over the years, the salaries and benefits of a policeman had been raised to levels that allowed for the decent upkeep of a family.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, August 14, 2004
19th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: **Ezk 18:1-10, 13, 30-32**
Gospel: **Mt 19:13-15**

Little children were brought to Jesus that he might lay his hands on them with a prayer. But the disciples scolded those who brought them. Jesus then said, "Let them be! Do not stop the children from coming to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to people such as these." So Jesus laid his hands on them and went his way.

Commentary

A good day to recall the words of Kalhil Gibran:

Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.
They came through you but not from you;
And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.
You may give them your love but not your thoughts,
For they have their own thoughts.
You may house their bodies but not their souls,
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,
which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.
You may strive to be like them,
but seek not to make them like you,
For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.
You are the bows from which your children as living arrows
are sent forth.
The Prophet (1923) "On Children"

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Party-list reps want seat in powerful CA

By Carlito Pablo

THEIR DAYS of being treated as second class citizens are over. Now, they want their clout felt.

Buoyed by the increase in their numbers, party-list representatives are now demanding a role in a game previously played only by the "big boys" in Congress.

Numbering 24 in the current 13th Congress, the representatives of the so-called marginalized sectors want a seat in the powerful Commission on Appointments.

Membership in the commission is one of the most coveted positions in Congress. A bicameral body, it screens the appointments of Cabinet members, senior military officials, and top-level diplomats.

It is generally known, or assumed, that being a member of the commission puts one in a position where he or she can bargain for political favors or concessions from those seeking the commission's approval of their appointments.

The party-list bloc has the Constitution and the rules of the House of Representatives on its side, Rep. Florencio Noel (party-list An Waray) said in an interview.

"Clearly we are entitled to a seat in the CA," he said.

Citing the Constitution and House rules, Noel said that representation in the commission was mandated to be in proportion to the number of representatives which political parties, as well as party-list organizations, have.

There are 236 members in the House and, dividing this number by the 12 commission seats allotted to the chamber, a bloc is entitled to a seat if it has at least 19 members.

"There are 24 party-list representatives and, therefore, we met the numerical requirement," Noel said.

No discrimination

During the 12th Congress, there were only 19 party-list representatives and, therefore, they were not entitled to a CA seat.

Noel acknowledged that it had been a general perception that party-list representatives were regarded as second-class citizens in Congress.

But he stressed that party-list lawmakers were entitled to the same rights and privileges as representatives of any regular legislative bodies.

"We all have one vote each, whether party-list or regular representative," Noel said.

The House has yet to complete its reorganization, meaning the allocation of officers and members of its 60 committees.

Hold off increases in prices of goods, GMA asks traders

By Juliet L. Javellana

NO PRICE increase on consumer goods.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has appealed to traders to hold off increases in the prices of consumer goods while her administration looks for ways to cushion the impact of escalating prices on the poor.

Ms Arroyo spoke to Filipino traders and business leaders present during a dialogue and luncheon with members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Business Advisory Council held at the Palace Ceremonial Hall yesterday.

She noted that Asean governments were trying to foster the right environment for business in the region in the face of global and national crises such as the "unprecedented increase in the world price of oil."

"And so we are on a round-the-clock alert on consumer prices," Ms Arroyo told business leaders from Japan and 10 Asean countries.

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15 July 2004

PhilHealth Circular
No. 14, s.2004

TO : ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Amendment to PhilHealth Circular 24 s.2003

Section 7.3 of PhilHealth Circular 24 s. 2003 is hereby amended to read as **"Newly-enrolled IPP members whose membership to NHIP cover not more than twelve (12) months reckoned from initial date of enrollment may be allowed to pay retroactive premium payments within one (1) month immediately following the missed period, even without fulfilling the requirement of sufficient regularity. Their entitlement to pregnancy-related benefits shall, however, be subject to the sufficient regularity rule."**

This provision is subject to the policy that the grace period can only be availed once in a twelve (12) month period, as stipulated in Office Order No. 99 s.2003.

This Circular shall take effect 15 days after publication in a widely circulated newspaper and shall cover all premium payments starting from the current quarter. All other provisions of Circular 24 s.2003 consistent with this issuance shall remain in full force and effect.

(Sgd.)FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, M.D., M.Sc.
President and Chief Executive Officer

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SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL EVENTS

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Saturday, August 14, 2004
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Forum on "Parental Involvement in Early Literacy (Family Literacy)"
by Philippine Normal University
in cooperation with the Reading Association of the Philippines

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Translation Seminar
by Philippine Bible Society

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
National Book Awards by Manila Critics Circle

FUNCTION ROOM B
Saturday, August 14, 2004
1:00 P.M - 7:30 P.M.
National Quiz Bee
Sponsored by Philippine Booksellers Association, Inc.

ACTIVITY AREA 1
Aug 14, 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. - Storytelling by Museo Pambata
3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. - Face Painting, Storytelling, Kite Making by Adarna Publishing

ACTIVITY AREA 2
Aug 14, 10:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M - Landscaping Workshop by Cornerstone Garden
1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. - Basic Art and Animation Workshop by Mowelfund Film Ins.
4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. - Lego Robotics by Felta Multi-Media Inc.

ACTIVITY AREA 3
Aug 14, 11:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. - Basic Hair Cutting by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US forces begin major Najaf attack

Sadr wounded in US bombardment

NAJAF, Iraq—Thousands of US troops sealed off Najaf's vast cemetery, its old city and a revered Shiite shrine and unleashed a tank, infantry and helicopter assault against militants loyal to Moqtada Sadr. Aides said the radical cleric was inside the shrine and had been wounded.

Sadr was injured as he was met with members of his Mahdi Army militia, near the Imam Ali shrine on Friday morning, said Haider al-Tousi, an Sadr aide.

He was hit with shrapnel in the chest and twice in a leg, al-Tousi said.

"He was moved to an unknown destination, we don't know his whereabouts right now," he said.

Another of his spokespeople described Sadr's condition as stable.

Sadr was said to be holed up in Najaf's sacred compound housing the Imam Ali shrine, along with his loyalists. He has led an uprising against coalition troops for more than a week in the city, vowing to fight "until the last drop of my blood has been spilled."

Troops also stormed the radical cleric's home on Thursday, only to find it empty.

As billows of black smoke drifted across Najaf on Thursday amid the clatter of military helicopters, gunmen in a house near the shrine shot at US forces patrolling the 13-sq km cemetery. Militants hiding in the cemetery took fire from the Apaches and from American soldiers crawling on the roofs of single-story buildings. When the gunships turned away, the insurgents in the graveyard shot back.

As the day began, the US military trumpeted the operation as the beginning of a major assault on Sadr's fighters.

"Major operations to destroy the militia have begun," said Maj. David Holahan, executive officer of the 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment.

Later Thursday, a spokesperson for the top US Marine command in Iraq, Lt. Col. T.V. Johnson, said that although there was some fighting and some Najaf residents have fled the city, the combat has been "sporadic and there have been no major engagements" with the militiamen.

Military operations were scaled down Friday to allow Iraqi government officials to pursue negotiations with Sadr's people, a military official said on condition of anonymity.

"They don't want (the fighting) to disrupt talks, we're under more restrictive rules of engagement," the official said.

The offensive threatened to inflame Iraq's Shiite majority—especially if the fighting damages the shrine—and presented the biggest test yet for interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite who is trying to crush the violence plaguing the country while working to persuade Iraqis of the legitimacy of his unelected government. *AP*

TYPHOON BATTERING

A Chinese family is drenched by a rainstorm in the city of Hangzhou, capital of southeastern China's Zhejiang province Aug. 12. Typhoon "Rananim," one of the worst typhoons to hit China in several years, killed 63 people and injured more than 1,800 when it battered Zhejiang province, officials said. REUTERS

US refinery blast drives oil prices to new high

LONDON—Oil prices set new highs on Friday, underpinned by fresh evidence of strong Chinese demand, worries about sabotage in Iraq and fears of unrest in Venezuela, where President Hugo Chavez faces a referendum this weekend on his rule.

News of an explosion at the BP refinery in Whiting, Indiana in the US spiked US light crude futures to a record $45.90 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, a jump of 40 cents on the day. London Brent set a record $42.85 a barrel, up 56 cents.

Prices have hit new records in all but one of the last 11 trading sessions, buoyed by world oil demand growth that is running at the fastest rate in 24 years and on concerns about stretched world production capacity.

"None of the fears about supply have gone away and demand growth shows no sign of slowing," said independent London oil analyst Geoff Pyne. "That makes it a difficult market to sell."

China on Friday said crude imports into the world's second biggest consumer held strong in July at growth rate of 40 percent over the same period last year. China's crude imports averaged 2.49 million bpd in the first seven months of 2004, also up 40 percent compared to the matching period in 2003, the official Xinhua news agency said.

The import figures suggest China's demand for oil has not been dented yet by Beijing's efforts to rein in its strongly growing economy, or by high prices.

In the United States, BP said a blast at its 420,000-barrel-a-day Whiting refinery, the nation's third biggest, had closed a petroleum product processing unit.

Iraqi oil exports flowed normally from the country's southern fields to offshore terminals after pumping resumed through a main pipeline sabotaged on Monday, an official from Iraq's South Oil Co. said. *Reuters*

British journalist kidnapped, threatened with death

BASRA, Iraq—Militants in the southern city of Basra stormed into a hotel, kidnapped a British journalist and threatened to kill him if US forces did not leave the holy city of Najaf within 24 hours, according to police and a video released Friday.

In the video, the journalist, barechested and with a bandage on his head, identified himself as James Brandon, 23, a reporter for The Sunday Telegraph.

The "Telegraph, that's my paper," he said, turning to a masked captor. Asked to give his address, the clearly terrified man said: "London."

The militants said they had taken Brandon hostage in protest of the US military presence in Najaf, one of the holiest cities for Shiite Muslims. The US military and Iraqi forces began a major offensive in the city Thursday designed to rout a rebel militia they had been battling there for more than a week.

"We are the sons of the Iraqi people," said the captor wearing a black ski mask. "We demand the withdrawal of the occupation forces from the holy city of Najaf in 24 hours, otherwise we will kill this British hostage," he said, patting Brandon on the shoulder.

Brandon was kidnapped Thursday when about 30 gunmen, some dressed as police, stormed into the Diafa Hotel in Basra, said police Capt. Hashem Abdullah.

Hotel owner Mohammed Uglah said gunmen found Brandon and shot at him after he tried to escape, beating him over the head before taking him away. He'd earlier said that the journalist was shot twice in the leg.

Hotel staff showed a check-in form filled in by the man, identifying himself as James Brandon, 23. According to the form, he had arrived in Basra on Wednesday.

In Britain, the Sunday Telegraph confirmed Brandon had written stories for the paper.

"James Brandon was in Basra filing material for this Sunday's newspaper amongst other projects," Sunday Telegraph Deputy Editor Matthew d'Ancona said. "We are pursuing his situation with the greatest concern." He could not confirm that Brandon had been abducted.

The British Foreign Office said it had unconfirmed reports that a British national had been kidnapped in Basra.

"We're trying to establish the facts and are working with the local authorities and trying to contact next of kin," the department said.

Kidnappers in Iraq have seized scores of hostages in recent months threatening to kill them in an effort to drive out coalition forces and companies supporting them. *AP*

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

OPENLETTER

To President Gloria Arroyo,
To our valued clients,
To PNB shareholders and
To the general public,

This is to share with you our very sad story.

Seven years since the last Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), PEMA and PNB Management started anew the collective negotiations on March 11, 2004. To-date, however, Management does not show genuine effort to rectify the unjust situation wherein PNB rank-and-file employees had been saddled for years with most inferior compensation package in the commercial banking industry.

PNB was the government depository bank before it was privatized in 1996. Since then, the salaries and benefits of PNB rank-and-file employees remained almost at a standstill and cannot even compare with the salaries received by their counterparts in private banks and government financial institutions; as well as by employees in the national government under the Salary Standardization Law.

While unable to increase the compensation of Philnabankers, the new PNB management hired numerous top-level officers with special compensation packages (e. g. extra-high salaries, representation and entertainment allowances, tax shields, luxury vehicles, membership in golf clubs, and many more.) The compensation packages of these newly hired officers are discriminatory against their homegrown counterparts. Yet their qualification and experience do not seem to be a consideration in their hiring even to a minimal standard because one of them is a therapist, another a skating instructor, and still another a flunker in the PNB entrance exam ! Old-timer Philnabankers who already bear multiple workloads, even act as tutors to the new hires. The heavy top-level hiring resulted now to a ratio of one PNB officer for every 2.5 rank-and-file employee !

Great wage distortion exists even among the old-timer Philnabankers. The average salary of top-level officers is about 20 times the average salary of rank-and-file employees of P12,000 per month. (Compare that to the Vice President who receives P150,000 and Senior Vice President who receives P 300,000 monthly salary !) Management keeps the salaries and allowances of our bank officers confidential, maintaining their payroll accounts at Metro Bank and China Bank.

When the CBA negotiations started, PEMA was hopeful that Management would sincerely act towards its pronounced Vision of making PNB the "employer of choice." We were also inspired by Management's pronouncement that PNB is ahead of its rehabilitation target and that it had even set up a budget of PHP 1.1 Billion for technological advancement alone. Likewise, we were encouraged by the fact that PNB remains to be among the top five in the banking industry, considering especially its P200 Billion resources. Moreover, we were much aware of the truth that the present performance of PNB could not have been made uphill and possible without the blood, sweat and tears of our lowly ranks.

Sadly, Management ignored our CBA proposals for just, reasonable and long over-due increases in salaries and benefits. As if to show contempt, Management counter-proposed a meager P 500 monthly or P 19 a day salary increase for the first year for every rank-and-file employee. There was nothing for fringe benefits to ease employees living condition except a minimal adjustment in Burial Benefit as if to hasten the departure of employees to great beyond plus P 10 increase to the existing P 30 monthly Children's Allowance.

What can we expect from those who live in immense luxury and leisure and who do not experience the difficulties of the rank-and-file employees in making both ends meet, except to be indifferent and stingy ?

We ask your full support in this just fight of ours, as we know that in many creative ways you can help us let our Management see that it is really wrong to treat us unfairly.

More importantly, we ask you to bear with our human shortcomings in these trying times. Rest assured, however, that while we are resolved to fight for justice, we remain committed not to have our concerted actions get in the way of our members' jobs to render public service to you.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

1 million told to flee US hurricane

MIAMI — Authorities on Thursday urged one million people in Cuba and the southern US state of Florida to flee the path of hurricane "Charley" as it headed toward Havana and the US coast.

"This has the potential of being the one we've all been warning about," Florida Gov. Jeb Bush said.

"It's going to cut a swath through the state that's going to impact millions of people."

Charley packed winds of 165 km per hour as it approached Cuba's Isla de Juventud, the US National Hurricane Center reported at 9 p.m.

The center posted hurricane warnings for most of the Florida keys and for the southwestern Florida coast, from East Cape Sable to Bonita Beach, including Florida Bay, between the mainland and the keys.

US and Cuban weather authorities said conditions were right for Charley to develop into a Category 3 storm, with winds of 209 km per hour.

The center warned of storm surge flooding of up to three meters along the Florida coast, with potential flash floods and mudslides. Charley could also spawn tornadoes, Florida county officials said. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

3 Vietnamese die from bird flu

GENEVA—The World Health Organization said on Thursday the Vietnamese government had confirmed three people had died from bird flu. The WHO said the deaths of the three, who were among a group of people hospitalized between July 19 and Aug. 8, were the first cases officially recorded in Vietnam since February. The confirmations underlined the risk of transmission of the virus to human beings from infected poultry, the WHO said. "This risk will continue as long as outbreaks are occurring in poultry," it said in a statement. The UN health agency said on July 16 it was concerned about the potential spread of bird flu into humans following new, simultaneous outbreaks of the disease in poultry in Thailand and Vietnam. *AFP*

Shake-up in European Commission

BRUSSELS—European Commission president-elect Jose Manuel Durao Barroso shared key posts among major economic powers, small nations and the bloc's 10 newest members as he unveiled the roles of 24 commissioners to work under him in the new EU executive. Britain's Peter Mandelson, a close ally of Prime Minister Tony Blair, was named commissioner for trade and will speak for the EU at a critical juncture in the current round of liberalization talks at the World Trade Organization. Germany's Guenter Verheugen, who oversaw the enlargement of the European Union to 25 countries on May 1, takes over an influential new portfolio of enterprise and industry. The Spaniard Joaquin Almunia, another of the six members of the departing commission who are staying on in Brussels, also kept his job in charge of economic and monetary affairs, while France's Jacques Barrot was switched from regional policy to transport. *AFP*

Palestinian, Israeli settler killed

JERUSALEM—A Palestinian militant killed a Jewish settler and wounded another before being shot dead in the West Bank Friday, a military source said. The Palestinian opened fire on the settlers' car near the settlement of Itamar, in the northern West Bank, fatally wounding one and injuring the other less seriously. Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed offshoot of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility for the attack, naming the militant as Yussef Ahmed Hanani, 25, a lieutenant in the Palestinian preventive security police. The deaths brought to 4,228 the overall toll since the September 2000 launch of the intifadah, or Palestinian uprising, including 3,230 Palestinians and 927 Israelis. *AFP*

Thai child survives four-story fall

BANGKOK—A 4-year-old Thai boy survived a four-story plunge onto a roof after climbing over the balcony of his family's 12th floor Bangkok apartment, hospital officials said Friday. Worawit Klongyuth suffered a broken arm and leg but was otherwise in good spirits and recovering well after the fall Thursday, an official at Bangkok's Sri Diam Hospital said. The boy, who had been left unattended, was rescued by a security guard who could see the unconscious child lying on a transparent roof, media reported. "I was frightened but I tried to bring him around by calling him and patting him. Five minutes later he woke up and cried for his mother," the guard was quoted as saying in the Nation newspaper. *AFP*

US chopper crashes on Japan campus

TOKYO—A US military helicopter crashed and burst into flames on the grounds of a university on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa on Friday, injuring three military personnel, but there were no civilian injuries. The incident, which took place during the summer school vacation, is likely to fan simmering resentment of the US military on Okinawa, which has long felt it bears an unfair burden of hosting US personnel in Japan. A fire department official in the city of Ginowan said the three injured were believed to be the helicopter's crew. *Reuters*

High court voids San Fo gay unions

SAN FRANCISCO—California's Supreme Court on Thursday voided the marriages of 4,000 gay couples wed in the city of San Francisco, ruling that its mayor had overstepped his powers by blessing the unions.

The latest blow to the same-sex marriage movement comes less than three months ahead of the Nov. 2 presidential election, giving new life to the politically and socially divisive debate.

"The same-sex marriages authorized by the officials are void and of no legal effect," the judges said, ruling that until a state ban on same-sex marriages was ruled unconstitutional, no official could sanction them.

But the judges emphasized that their ruling covered the narrow question of whether San Francisco's mayor had overstepped his authority and did not deal with the constitutionality of the ban on gay marriage.

They said the issue was "not before our court in this proceeding, and our decision in this case is not intended, and should not be interpreted, to reflect any view on that issue."

Gay groups slammed the decision to annul the unions of the thousands of people married in the month-long marriage blitz as "shockingly disrespectful," while conservatives hailed the ruling as a major victory.

Liberal San Francisco's young mayor, Gavin Newsom, sparked a firestorm in February when he ordered city hall officials to issue marriage licenses to gay couples in defiance of state law.

He maintained that a legal ban on same-sex marriages flouted the state constitution guarantee of equal rights to all citizens.

But conservative groups battled the case to the state supreme court, which on March 11 ordered an end to the marriages until it could decide the politically charged case.

In their decision issued Thursday, the seven judges said that Newsom had clearly overstepped his powers by breaking state laws as no legal decision has been made on whether a ban on gay marriage is unconstitutional.

"We agree with petitioners that local officials in San Francisco exceeded their authority by taking official action in violation of applicable statutory provisions," they wrote.

The judges issued an order ordering officials to abide by the laws as long and to undo the effects of past breaches. By a 5-2 vote, the judges moved to annul the same-sex marriages.

Officials must make "appropriate corrections to all relevant official records and notifying all affected same-sex couples that the same-sex marriages authorized by the officials are void and of no legal effect."

Newsom said he was disappointed by the decision and saddened for the couples whose marriages had been voided, but said he would abide by it.

"I am proud of those 4,000 couples and my heart is heavy because today based upon the supreme court's decision, their relationships... as a married couple, have been invalidated.

"I respectfully disagree with the supreme court's decision but I respect the court and will respect the order," he told a press conference. *AFP*

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N. Jersey gov quits over gay affair

TRENTON, N.J—New Jersey Gov. James McGreevey, who earlier this year said he opposed gay marriage, announced on Thursday he would resign and admitted to having a homosexual affair.

McGreevey, who is married with two children, told reporters he had a consensual affair with another man and that he had been conflicted over his sexuality since adolescence.

"Throughout my life, I have grappled with my own identity," McGreevey told a news conference, making reference to his Catholic upbringing.

The Democrat spoke about the love, strength and respect of both his first and second wives but said, "From my early days of school until the present day, I acknowledged some feeling, a certain sense that separated me from others."

"My truth is that I am a gay American and I am blessed to live in the greatest nation with the greatest tradition of civil liberties in the world," he said.

"Shamefully, I indulged in an adult consensual affair with another man, which violates the bonds of matrimony. It was wrong, it was foolish and it was inexcusable. For this I ask for the forgiveness and grace of my wife," McGreevey told a stunned news conference, his second wife Dina by his side, holding his hand. "I have decided the right course of action is to resign."

He said his resignation is effective Nov. 15.

McGreevey, 47, took office in January 2002. His four-year term will be completed by Democrat Richard Codey, the current president of the state senate. *Reuters*

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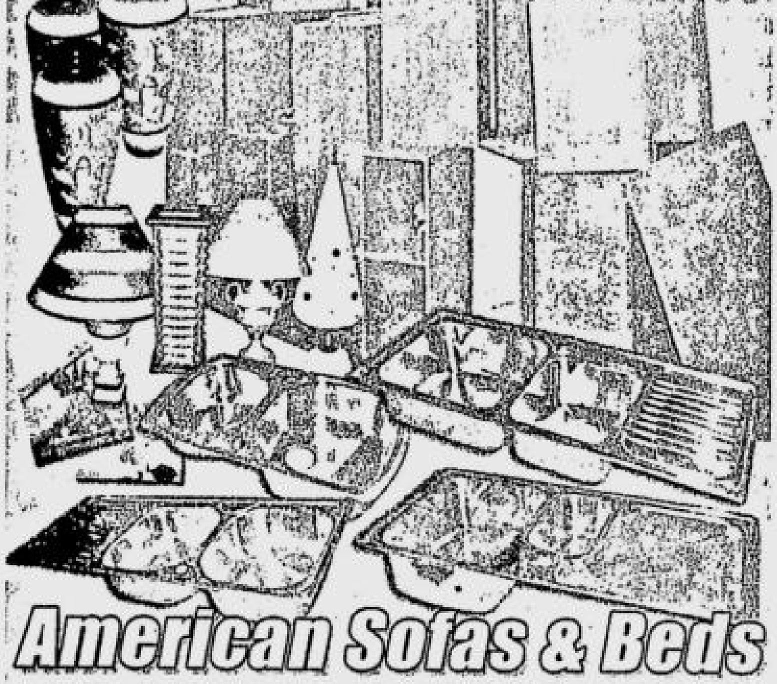

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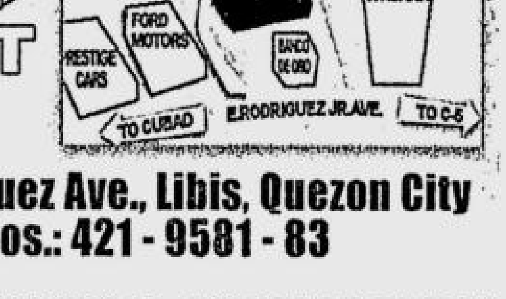

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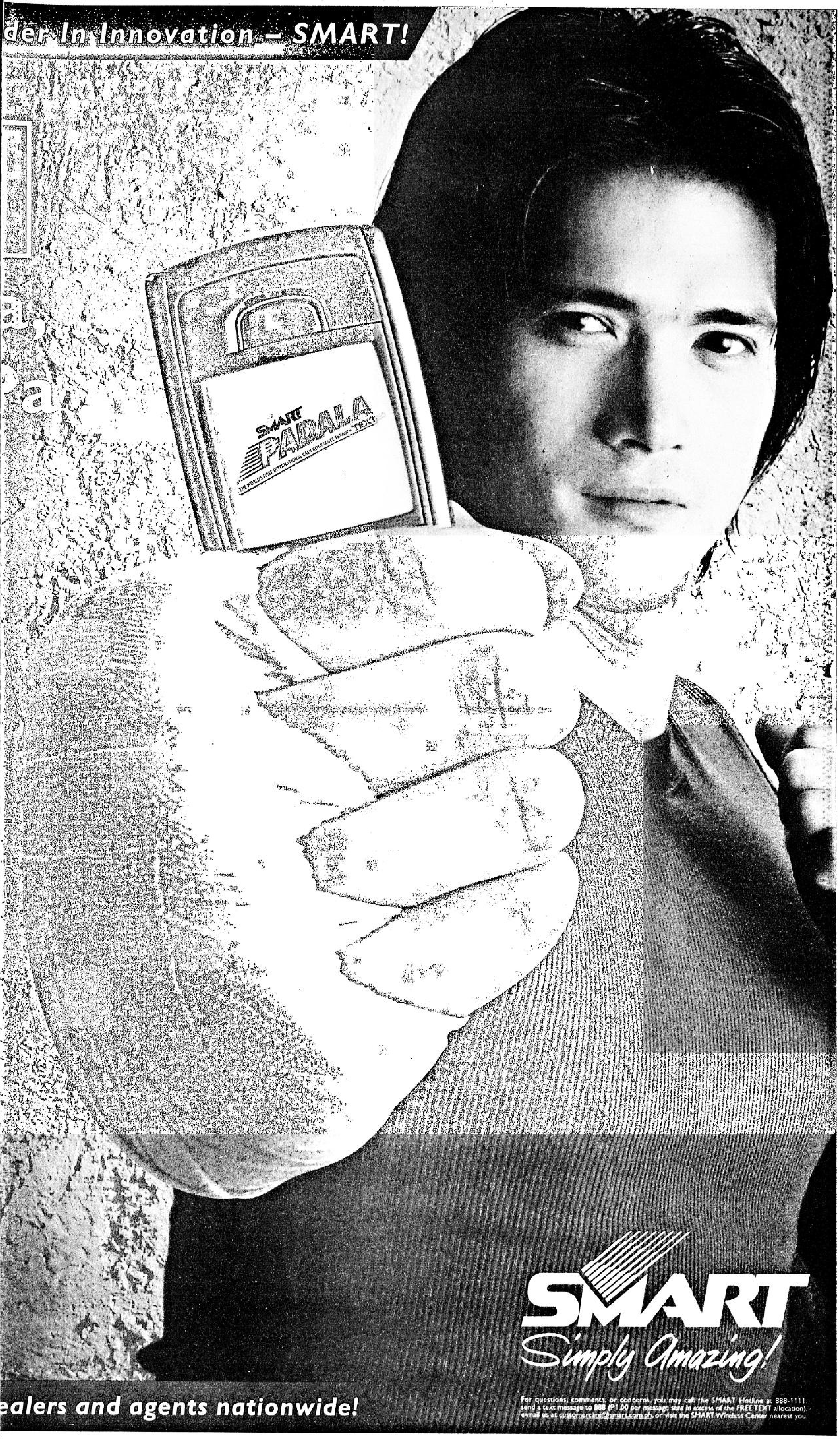
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Red language

EDITORIAL

ON THE SURFACE, the National Democratic Front's latest demand seems reasonable. Lift the terrorist tag on communist rebels, and the peace talks will continue. Scratch the surface, however, and we find all sorts of contradictions disguised as principle.

"[The postponement is] a direct result [of the recent US announcement]," the NDF's chief negotiator, Luis Jalandoni, told the INQUIRER. He was referring to the news from the US Department of State last Monday, retaining the Communist Party of the Philippines and its New People's Army on the official US list of "foreign terrorist organizations."

This US action, Jalandoni said, "showed that no effective measures were taken" by the Philippine government to get the CPP-NPA off the list.

Now his choice of words is unintentionally revealing. The syntax seems to suggest that the NDF is prepared to deal with a government that has taken measures—that is, started the process of convincing both the United States and the European Union (which has also released a similar list). That is par for the diplomatic course. But his diction reveals that the NDF's actual emphasis is not on the process (the taking of measures) but on the outcome (that is, the measures must be "effective").

The NDF does not merely want the government to lobby the United States and the EU before the peace talks resume; it wants the US State Department and the EU to actually drop the CPP-NPA from the list. How else are we supposed to understand "effective measures"?

If this is, in fact, the NDF's true precondition, then its leaders in Norwegian exile have either finally lost touch with current Philippine realities or have no intention of concluding a peace agreement.

On the level of the practical, the Philippines—after Angelo de la Cruz and the pullout of the Philippine contingent from Iraq—is not in any position to make demands on the United States or other members of the so-called Coalition of the Willing. On the level of the political, the Philippines cannot hope to reinterpret other countries' reading of terrorist threats for them, even when it involves Philippine-based groups.

But the terrorist tag, which has tightened the flow of money and other resources to the communist insurgency since it was first issued in August 2002, has apparently become a make-or-break issue for the NDF and its chief political consultant, CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison.

"[If the government] refuses to come to terms with the NDF on such fundamental issues as genuine national independence, democracy, social justice and basic reforms, then there is really no basis for continuing the peace negotiations," Sison said, explaining his advice to the NDF to postpone the peace talks. To which the answer can only be: How would he know? If the peace talks don't resume because of the terrorist tag controversy, how can the parties come to terms on the basic issues?

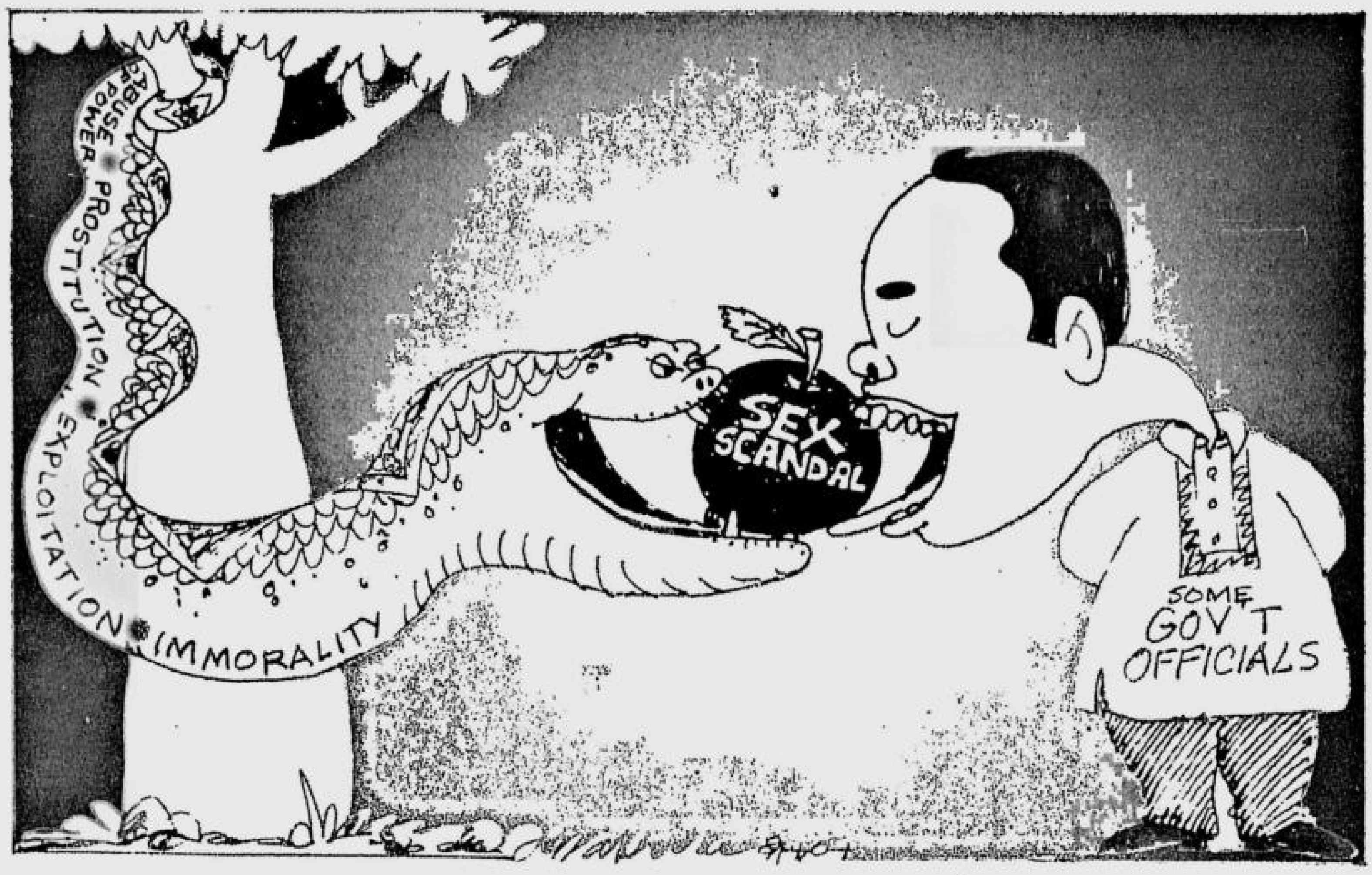
Again, the language itself is self-revelatory. What Sison is saying is that the terrorist tag has reached the level of a fundamental issue.

In his e-mail, Sison also took a swipe at the United States, accusing the US government of "stirring up the civil war" between the Arroyo administration and the "people's democratic government represented by the NDF."

These rather routine statements allow us to see the contradictions at the heart of the NDF position. The NDF frames the issue as an act of imperialism, blaming the United States for unilaterally issuing the list and attacking the EU for including the CPP-NPA. But at the same time, the NDF professes to understand the problem as a question of sovereignty, blaming the government for not doing enough to keep foreign hands off a local issue. But if it is in the country's best interests to get the CPP-NPA off the list (a highly arguable point), who is to say that the other countries' interests are not best served by keeping the rebels on it?

The result of all this posturing: The next round of peace negotiations between the government and the NDF, scheduled to start on Aug. 24, is now on hold.

This is not the first time that the NDF has threatened to abandon the negotiating table. What makes this latest delaying tactic worse is the sheer illogic of it; the NDF has managed to put the cart before the horse. If a peace agreement is reached, the terrorist tag will be lifted. After, not before.



The secret shame

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

AS a member of the Supreme Court, I had my share of raffled cases involving the crime of rape.

They were more serious than the other offenses against persons and property and generally filled me with moral indignation. The fact that they violated the honor and chastity of women, and specially sullied the innocence of defenseless children, made it particularly repulsive.

In one of the earlier cases assigned to me, I observed:

"The rather considerable number of rape cases brought before this Court might suggest to the foreigner reading our decisions that we are a violent and lascivious people forcing our lust on weak and defenseless women. This is not true, of course; rape is not epidemic in our country nor is it even one of our major and common crimes.

"If at all, these cases should only demonstrate the severity with which we deal with this offense, which in other societies is usually swept under the rug to conceal the shame and stigma of the victim. The regrettable consequence, albeit not intended, is the condonation of the offender, who is thus undeservedly spared to rape another day.

"While modest and kindhearted by nature, our womenfolk have a deep sense of justice that will not permit them to forgive this unforgivable assault upon their chastity and by their inaction allow it to be perpetuated again against others. Shunning exposure to avoid dishonor is to them a squeamish inhibition.

"Convinced and rightly so that the guilty must be punished and deterred from repeating his offense and others similarly inclined may be discouraged and threatened with like penalties, the injured woman will not stifle her humiliation in silence.

"Instead, she is willing to publicly admit the violation of her body, to submit to the embarrassing curiosity of the morbid, and to endure the covert censure, not to say disdain, of the bigoted, that the wrongdoer may be flushed out to face the consequences of his wickedness.

"This quiet courage enhances rather than diminishes the high regard of our people for the *'dalagang Pilipina'* immortalized in song and legend and idealized by Rizal in the demure and beautiful Maria Clara, the lost love of Crisostomo Ibarra. She herself, to recall this tragic figure, was the 'ill-starred' victim of carnal greed, and of the celibate at that."

The victim in this case of People v. Rondina, 149 SCRA 128, "was no paragon of beauty or wit and was in fact described by the trial judge as 'mentally retarded.' Nevertheless, she deserves commendation for her spirit in denouncing her oppressors and is entitled to no less than the full vindication of her rights as any other member of her sex whose honor is bloodied with lust without love in the ultimate outrage of her womanhood."

"As this Court has repeatedly observed, a virtuous woman will not as a rule admit in public that she has been raped, thus marring her honor and her future unless she is telling the uncomfortable truth. There was no reason either for her to point to the accused-appellants as her attackers if they were not really the ones who raped her, as she had not known them earlier and held no grudge against them.

"In the absence of a sinister or malicious motive, which is not shown in this case, the embarrassing announcement she made of her violation, coming from a maiden whose life was limited to the uncomplicated tasks of a housekeeper and who could not even write her own name, deserves the credence and sympathy of the Court."

"The penalty for rape when committed by two or more persons is reclusion perpetua to death. The offense in this case having been committed with the aggravating circumstance of superiority and without any mitigating circumstance, should be three death sentences for each of the accused appellants. However, as the death penalty has been abolished under Art. III, Sec. 19 of the new Constitution, the same is now reduced to reclusion perpetua, also imposed thrice on both Rondina and Colliano."

The decision ends with these melancholy remarks:

"For all the apparent harshness of these penalties, it is still the innocent victim herself who, tragically, will suffer most for the violation of her virtue. Forever denied that tender moment of a deflowering with love, she is also condemned to remember all her life that brutal night in the bushes when she was cruelly and disdainfully defiled in an act of animal lust. From the prison of these ugly memories, there is, unhappily for her, no release."

We expressed similar regret in People v. Veloso, 148 SCRA 60, where we said:

"For his offense, the accused-appellant, who was only 20 years old at the time, must forfeit the prime of his years in the reproving confines of a prison cell. Catherine unfortunately must suffer a crueler ordeal for she must deal with the bitter memories of the outrage to her chastity until they mercifully fade with time."

There are other decisions on this obnoxious offense that are worth the telling. Not all of them are of conviction, for the evidence in some of them was unbelievable, sometimes even ludicrous and even funny. I shall relate a few later, if only to show that accusation in rape cases does not necessarily establish guilt.

Quiet attempts at good governance

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

IF you want to get a good feeling about government, read on. This is about serious attempts (as distinct from publicity stunts) to strengthen the efficiency of government agencies and their ability to combat corruption. That they are quiet attempts underline their seriousness even more. This is also about government officials we can be proud of.

Ever heard of the "Solana Covenant"? No? That is because, by design, there was no attendant publicity. It is an anti-corruption plan—to "help create an ethical, honest and accountable governance"—formalized during an "Anti-Corruption Summit" held last January by the heads of the three front-line constitutional agencies in the battle for good governance. This was a two-day meeting attended by Civil Service Commission chair Karina Constantino-David, Commission on Audit chair Guillermo Carague and Ombudsman Simeon V. Marcelo in Solana (Anilao, Batangas), together with their top lieutenants.

The three are uniquely situated. Because of their tenure in office (their terms are up in 2008 or 2009), and their constitutionally mandated independence, they are in a much better position to work together in fighting corruption. The Solana Covenant is the result of an assessment of their institutions' anti-corruption mandates, capabilities and resources, and lists "concrete and doable initiatives to be undertaken jointly and by each institution within the next five (5) years." Moreover, there is recognition of the role that can and should be played by civil society—they are open to collaborative efforts.

The initiatives are truly concrete, contained in three and a half pages, and categorized into "Collective (Medium Term)," "Collective (Immediate term)," "Individual Agency Actions (Medium Term)," and " Individual Agency Actions (Immediate Term)." Among those in the first group of initiatives is one that should have been done a long time ago: the establishment of a database for the Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN) that will be run by the CSC, together with procedures to enhance compliance and monitoring. Another important one: the three agencies individually commit to "self-cleansing" within six months from signing (last March), and to share best practices in this regard.

No name-and-shame tactics will be used, nor will the source of complaints be compromised; and press releases **only** after the issuance of a preventive suspension order or determination of probable cause or prima facie case. Included in the covenant is the possibility of co-endorsing a bill on the confidentiality for complaints and investigation of cases that are corruption-related. No trial-by-publicity—another noteworthy difference between them and the publicity-seeking, self-serving "exposés"—where reputations are shredded with abandon.

What should really warm the cockles of the reader's heart is that actions have already matched words. For example, there is the matter of unliquidated cash advances, which at least bespeaks of incompetence and, at worst, corruption. The enhanced cooperation among the signatories is reflected in the "show cause" letters signed either by the Ombudsman (for presidential appointees) or the CSC chair (for the rest) when COA audits show unliquidated cash advances of at least P50,000. The anecdotal evidence so far is that there has been a marked decrease in these unliquidated advances.

And there is the Pasada (Public Service Delivery Audit) of the CSC, a program where accredited volunteers rate front-line service agencies, both national (e.g., LTO) and local (e.g. municipal halls) according to pre-determined, objective criteria. After three low ratings, CSC writes and offers to help the concerned agencies improve their performance. CSC does **not** intend to come out with a list of the agencies with poor performance, but it intends (by year-end) to publicize those that have efficient delivery systems (I can't wait). Those who do not make the list can consider themselves seriously in need of improvement.

This is not to say that the attempts to improve governance and reduce corruption only started with the Solana Covenant. Karina David and her people managed to improve service with less resources. Gem Carague has been working on a New Government Accounting System (NGAS) that will replace the more-than 50-year-old system, which is as complicated as it is obfuscatory. And since Simeon Marcelo took office, the conviction rate of the Ombudsman before the Sandiganbayan has more than doubled (that's the good news: the bad news is that it is still very low—it went up from 6 percent to 14 percent). Marcelo's battle cry is to increase the risks and reduce the rewards of corruption, and he has involved the World Bank (for funding) and the Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption (for technical assistance) in his campaign.

Nor are the attempts limited to the three constitutional agencies. The Department of Education, together with the OMB and the CSC, has participated in the so-called "Integrity Development Review" with the help of the Development Academy of the Philippines—but that is the subject of another column.

The Solana Covenant has certainly brought cooperation and coordination efforts to a new high, not only among agencies, but also among other sectors. Who knows, it may bring us much closer, and much sooner to the "tipping point" that will transform a vicious cycle of corruption into a virtuous cycle of good governance.

As remote as the ice age

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE PRESIDENT'S move entrusting the welfare of overseas Filipino workers to no less than the second highest official admits, if belatedly, to the important role OFWs play in our economy and the special care they deserve from the government. GMA appointed VP Noli de Castro presidential adviser on OFWs and put under him the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, thus separating the two agencies from the Department of Labor and Employment which can now concentrate on domestic workers. I hope De Castro would focus on ways to help OFWs prepare for their return to the homeland, by enabling them to utilize here the skills acquired abroad. There's also the crying need to teach their families to handle their newfound prosperity in ways that will benefit them in the long term, so the OFWs' sacrifices abroad will not go for naught.

* * *

The "term-sharing" of offices in Congress, which this column has nicknamed the "double pregnancy" solution, has worked in the rivalry between Senate Chief Franklin Drilon and Sen. Manuel Villar for the Senate presidency; between congressmen Nonoy Andaya and Jose Salceda for the chairmanship of the House appropriations committee, and between congressmen Jesli Lapus and Herminio Teves for the chairmanship of the ways and means committee.

But the question as to who will head the House contingent in the Commission on Appointments remains unresolved between two third-termers: Surigao's Prospero Pichay and Cebu's Clavel Martinez.

Pichay is said to be quite close to GMA and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo; and to be supported as well by Speaker Jose de Venecia? On the other hand, Martinez played a prominent role in the congressional canvassing. But her strongest card is that she's part of the Cebu mafia that delivered the winning margin to GMA? For Pichay, it's the chairmanship or nothing, while Martinez does not want to consider the position of the CA majority leader, which has been offered to her. What will the solomonic decision be?

* * *

My comments on the need to rationalize the use of texts must have touched a raw nerve. Some readers said that while texting is a boon, especially to the low-income groups who use it to keep in touch with their families in the provinces or abroad, it has also been so abused: This electronic gadget distracts students in schools; it wreaks havoc on workers' productivity and family budgets; not to mention adding to the crime rate. Some readers are with Rey Anthony David, president of Great Wall Advertising: a rational way to tax texts would be to give each user 20 tax-free texts per day, and impose the tax only on subsequent texts. The problem is how to implement the tax beyond the ceiling.

* * *

Here's a thought for legislators: my son Buddy just returned from South Africa, a country where there are also a lot of poor people, and he notes that local texts there cost about P16 each. This is far more expensive than the cost of overseas texts from the Philippines (about P10 per text to Saudi Arabia or P20 to the US). Thus, the P1 per text message here is so cheap that users surely can afford the imposition of a reasonable tax, especially post-paid plan subscribers.

* * *

I support Rep. Abraham Mitra's call for our telephone companies to change their mobile phone billing system by charging calls not by per-minute as currently practiced, but by per-second, or—as in some countries—by every six seconds. Under the present system, each call is rounded off by the minute. For example, a call that lasts one minute and six seconds is considered a two-minute call. Thus, he says, consumers are unfairly charged billions of pesos for "phantom call minutes." Mitra has a point. I think a per-second billing is fair.

* * *

In a previous column, I mentioned the eulogy delivered by former Senate President Jovito Salonga in honor of the late Arturo Tolentino. It was in the form of a "Dear Ka Turing" letter (to a *kababayan* from Rizal —Tolentino came from the lake town of Angono, while Salonga is from Pasig), which he later turned over to Tolentino's widow, Constancia. Salonga recalled the instances he and Tolentino were on opposing sides of the legal and political fence. One of those was when anti-martial law lawyers, like Lorenzo Tañada, Joker Arroyo, Raul Gonzalez (soon to be named justice secretary), Dakila Castro, Sedfrey Ordoñez and himself, filed a habeas corpus petition for the release of political prisoners (Ninoy Aquino, Jose Diokno, Ramon Mitra) and independent journalists Teodoro Locsin Sr. and Max Soliven. On the other side were Tolentino and Estelino Mendoza defending the martial law proclamation and the "ratification of the martial law Constitution of 1973." Salonga, assailing the "fictitious ratification" of that Charter by the so-called citizens assemblies, asked why Ka Turing "had to risk your reputation for independent judgment, your moral integrity and strength of conviction, just to defend the dictator."

* * *

Probably aware that he raised eyebrows with his recollection of that incident, Salonga went on: "if I did not bring up these two cases, I would never be able to justify writing this letter to you, Ka Turing. *Bakit pa ako sumulat sa iyo kung hindi ako magsasabi ng katotohanan.*" He noted that as he used to say in the Senate, "we remained friends in spite of our disagreements. For we can disagree without being disagreeable, we can differ without being difficult." That era of refined civility symbolized by Tolentino and Salonga now seems as remote as the ice age. Perhaps, Senate Chief Drilon could hang that reminder in his chamber: "Let's disagree without being disagreeable; let's differ without being difficult."

Is dialogue still possible?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SO THOSE critical of the "Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Collaboration of Men and Women in the Church and in the World" haven't read the entire document, eh?

The "Letter," attributed to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger but released with the approval of Pope John Paul II, has been widely described as a denunciation of feminism, which it accuses of seeking to erase the differences between the sexes and of fomenting conflict within families.

In reaction, women's organizations, most of them under the banner of the Reproductive Health Action Network (RHAN), released a statement directed at Filipino bishops "expressing disagreement with the Vatican's letter," saying the document simplifies and misrepresents what feminism is all about. The "Letter to the Bishops" also "resurrects old stereotypes of femininity and masculinity based on biology," using these to justify the "reservation of priestly ordination solely to men."

"What dismays us most about this letter is that the Church accuses us of being antagonistic because we are attempting to end the violence, oppression and exploitation of women," the signatories state. Though the Vatican document described the "feminine" Church as using power "(as) a way of love…that vanquishes all violence," it "scolds" women for precisely seeking power (of whatever kind) to end violence against women.

My own interpretation of this is that while the Church believes that gender-based violence, discrimination and oppression are wrong, and that it is right for women to seek an end to all these, women can do so only as long as they know their place and don't blame men, especially the men of the Church.

Who, then, are women to blame? Other women?

* * *

ASKED to respond to the adverse reactions to the "Letter" (including a privilege speech delivered by first-termer Akbayan party list Rep. Rissa Hontiveros), Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz asked all the critics to first read the document in full "to avoid misconceptions."

The "Letter," he said, really promotes equality between men and women, accusing critics of "eclectic reading" and choosing and picking portions of the document to analyze according to a pre-set agenda. As expected, the archbishop's broadside has engendered fresh reactions. Dr. Sylvia Estrada Claudio, chair of Likhaan and one of the signatories to the letter from women's groups, said she was "deeply grieved" by the archbishop's reaction. "I assure him that we did read that letter thoroughly. How can we accept the letter's call for constructive dialogue when our motivations and common sense are questioned because we disagree?" Estrada-Claudio said that Archbishop Cruz's dismissive attitude was entirely in line with the reception women's groups got when they sought a dialogue with a representative of the Philippine bishops last Monday.

"At that rally, the CBCP representative questioned our right to hold a peaceful demonstration without a permit, insisted that they would talk to only one representative although there were more than a dozen organizations there, and made many critical comments about us.

"As we said consistently to the CBCP representative, whose security staff refused to identify to us, we remain open to real dialogue."

Something tells me, though, that perhaps there's no real dialogue possible when one party insists the proper approach is one of supplication.

* * *

NOTICE: The United Nations Development Programme and the International Movement of Development Managers will co-sponsor a forum on the South Asia Poverty Alleviation Programme (Sapap) on Aug. 16, Monday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the SGV Room of the Asian Institute of Management Conference Center in Makati City.

The first in the series of policy fora on development sponsored by UNDP, guest presentor in Monday's forum is Dr. Henning Karcher, former UNDP resident representative in Nepal and North Korea and head of the Division for South and West Asia. Dr. Karcher initiated, designed and managed the implementation of Sapap. He will share the Sapap experience and will also comment on the relevance of the approach to the Philippines.

The Sapap was implemented with the support of UNDP in Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Its objective was to demonstrate to governments and civil society the feasibility of using the approach of social mobilization to combat rural poverty on a large scale. At the core of Sapap is the active participation of beneficiaries in grassroots development planning and implementation, based on the assumption that people, especially those who are poor, are both willing and able to do much themselves to combat poverty.

By its completion in March 2003, Sapap had directly impacted on the lives of over one million people through increased household incomes, improved infrastructure and better access to basic needs in the project areas. But the most enduring impact concerns empowerment and motivation. Sapap encouraged people to upgrade their skills through capacity development, enhance their access to financial resources and develop partnership with government line departments and other development partners. Women, particularly in countries with strongly patriarchal structures, report that the development of a social forum, regular meetings, trainings and the successful new livelihoods have given them confidence, raised their incomes and increased their status at home and in the public sphere.

As intended, Sapap has triggered upscaling activities in most participating countries, including follow-up investments in excess of $550 million. For reservations please call UNDP, Ms Marilou Blancaver at Tel. No. 893-98-01, 892-06-11; or IMDM, Ms Jenny Mondano at Tel. No. 753-20-06.

Can Roses be mated with Pigs?

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

IN RESPONSE to the article on Biotechnology (PDI, 6/19/04), Dr. Benigno Peczon, president of the Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines said that roses can't mate with pigs because "the sexual mode of reproduction is limited by the compatibility in the number of chromosomes (where the DNA is located). Thousands of genes are necessary from both parents to form the DNA of offspring. Biotechnology identifies one or two genes which encode some useful trait then adds the genes to another organism's DNA so that the transfer of a few genes won't turn the pig into a rose."

Returning to the subject of bio-engineering (if you prefer the more proper term its "recombinant DNA technology," a mite too difficult to pronounce), what it really means is that a foreign gene is spliced into the DNA of an organism "so that when the organism grows, the new trait encoded by the inserted gene is expressed." Insulin, for instance, is the result of the splicing of a human gene, responsible for producing human insulin, into the DNA of E. coli, a bacterium which produces insulin identical to human insulin. As you can see there are benefits to be derived that no one can argue.

We are also told that biotechnology can improve the safety of foods by taking out some harmful substances or adding beneficial ones. Thus the GM peanut is being developed so that people who are allergic to it may enjoy eating peanut spread or peanuts, period. Genetically altered tomatoes would contain more lycopene which is believed to delay the onset of cancer. Dr. Peczon explains that GM foods "are only as safe as their conventional counterparts." And that GM foods currently in the market contain no antibiotics.

This same technique is being used to produce modified food that promises to increase production and to resist pests, disease, droughts; and contains vitamins and nutrients severely lacking in the diets of the poor. If this is the case, why aren't Third World countries embracing GM foods without protest?

One of the things opponents of GM technology are asking is that imported, genetically modified food items should be identified. According to Dr. Peczon labeling GM foods would increase their price by around 10 percent, and their manufacturing costs by 11-12 percent. He asks "will the price increase justify the fact that the labeling is not related to safety?" Some people also ask: Is it safe to combine genes that have not previously been combined, thus creating new traits—and do we know the long-term impact on our biodiversity?

Dr. Peczon cites figures showing "more than 3,500 scientists are convinced of its safety as listed in the AgBioWorld website." Several prestigious institutions, such as the World Health Organization and the National Academies of Sciences, are convinced about the safety of GM foods. European Commission-sponsored research studies, conducted by over 400 research teams, also attest that the GM products pose no threat to human health or environment.

Another concern is: Genetic engineering is under the control of the private sector; it is being developed almost solely by that sector. Since a company's objective is to make money, one cannot expect them to be concerned with the welfare of poor Third World countries more than making a profit.

The other question we have to ask is whether the transgenic crops will tie the farmer to specific chemicals and a specific company such as Monsanto? Genetically modified seeds cannot reproduce, cannot be saved for next year's crop. Moreover, the technology is controlled by another country. What happens if you become dependent on some crop or rice variety and the controlling country refuse to send the seeds? In effect, there is no local control and therefore no food security.

There are people who are genuinely worried that these genetically modified foods will contaminate and destroy the local varieties, including the wild species of local crop. We don't know. What tickles our curiosity is that IRRI's miracle rice was supposed to increase production and make us self-sufficient way back when. The hybrid rice is also heavily dependent on fertilizers which has to be imported. The question is why are we still importing rice?

Two issues/questions have also been brought up at protocol negotiations and at World Trade Organization meetings. One is the right of a country to know what it is importing and whether a government has the right to refuse an import it considers unsafe for its population.

On the other hand, you should know that bio-engineering was introduced in 1996 and as of 2003, GM crops have already been planted to 67.7 million hectares across 18 countries. The Philippines started planting GM crops in 2002, with only 126 hectares. But as of last year, the total land area planted to such crops has gone up to 11,000 hectares; by the end of this year, it is expected to reach 30,000 hectares. In case you wish to learn more about GM crops, you can access Biotechnology Coalition's website at www.bcp.org.ph

Let me put a bee in your bonnet though. Don't you think our good senators and congressmen should discuss these matters and other matters as well, such as how to control rising prices (we are talking about food security, after all, and the most of us don't have signing privileges at Manila Hotel) instead of such concerns as who's going to chair what committee and how many committees can any of them head?

Semi-charmed

YOUNG BLOOD

Karen Monique Mercado

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I AM one ordinary person, female, Ilocano. I am faceless in the rush-hour MRT crowd. I lead a life not quite as flamboyant as Kris Aquino's, but I do OK. I have yet to paint the town red.

I was my town's Golden Girl less than a decade ago. I had my fair share of fame, which began when I won an oral reading contest, and a declamation contest where I shouted "The Mango and the Bamboo." On it went until high school where I made myself a name that everybody else must set his or her standard against.

Small town big time, that's me.

Everybody knew I wanted to be a doctor, but I have come to realize that even if I could send myself to medical school through scholarships, I have no trust fund to pursue a medical career. I mean, how do I begin when I can't even afford a scalpel? I put my "white-coated" dream aside and started thinking of treading a much less impossible course.

I was lucky to have made it to the University of the Philippines, but not lucky enough to be among those who made the cut for Business Administration or Applied Physics. I wanted to shift out of my course; I wanted to be in a *bigatin* class. After all, I am *bigatin*.

But UP didn't think so. I was only small town big time, not big town big time. So I stayed in my course and whined my way through Math 54 and Chem 17. Just when I had begun to love my course (took years), one of my townmates asked me what was it that I was taking again. I told her Metallurgical Engineering. She said, after much thought, *"Talaga? May* Medical Engineering *na pala ngayon!* So you're really going to be a doctor! And an engineer too!"

Damn.

Gone were the days when I was crème a la crème. I became the average student I hated in high school. One of my professors narrated that when he came to UP, he was so humbled he had to look up to see down. That was what happened to me, too. That was when I became faceless, reduced to student number 97-54575.

What happened to Golden Me? Year after year, when I go back to the town that used to look up to me as charmed, I ask myself if I deserve the praises? Should I tell my townspeople that the voice that won oratorical contests has become a mere croak in college? Do I continue to make them believe that I am still the girl they all wanted their sons to marry?

I would have loved to be free of the expectations my little town placed on my shoulders. Someone even told me my Kailyans are waiting for my name to appear in the papers, in the list of successful examinees, especially because almost all of my batch mates are already professionals. I yearn to tell people that I may not make it big, so back off a little; that success can make a person, but it can't unmake a person's life. Would you still root for me even if I failed?

I didn't want to care, but I did. I have learned that life consists not only of success or failure, but I still care if I made people happy. I have been humbled but I still want to be remembered, even if only by the town that reared me. I guess this is what makes me ordinary, this basic sentiment, this desire to see other people happy because of me, or because of what I do. This may not always be good, but that is another story.

After graduation, I labored for my board exam without anybody from home but my family knowing. I took the review very seriously and decided it was my last shot at making a significant mark before embarking on an all-new journey. I thought I can be in many ways ordinary, but sticking out in some place can be great too. And I intended to do just that.

The examination came. And went. I emerged from it laden with books, my brain swimming in caffeine. I dreaded the result. I'm sure at least half of this country's population knows how days seem to stretch on to eternity when waiting for an exam result.

I go about my usual day without banners waving in the air that say "Hey I exist!" I very easily get lost in the crowd, no drum and bugle corps to herald my presence or entrance to the scene. But I do not need those; as long as I have made some person happy, that is the (invisible) sash I wear when I go out into the world. People may notice me for something I did, like placing fourth in the board exam, but I would be most happy if what they remember most is how this ordinary woman can do something as extraordinary as putting a smile back on some lonely child's face.

Karen Monique Mercado, 23, is a BS Metallurgical Engineering graduate from University of the Philippines in Diliman.

Shoe psychology 101

Jael Wenceslao

WEDGES, sling back, mules, platforms, flats. What am I talking about? Potato wedges? No. Mules with donkeys? Sorry. You aren't in "Jeopardy" and I'm no Alex Trebeck. But, if you're a man—and you're desperately single, you need to brush up on "Shoe Psychology 101" to impress the ladies.

Delving deeper into the shoe-shopping phenomenon can actually do wonders to your market value to women and help you snag that perfect someone. How can something so expensive and minute do that, you may ask?

You see, shoe shopping is not skin-deep. More often than not, when a woman (a.k.a. Imelda Marcos or Carrie Bradshaw) buys shoes, she is depressed and is looking for that natural high to make her feel better. For a man, it may be scoring a touchdown or driving a convertible. For a woman, it's putting on and trying out a new pair of shoes. To add to the mystery of shoe-shopping, a woman may try on numerous pairs and come out of the store, several hours later, empty-handed—leaving men like us with our jaws dropped all the way down to China! Clearly, there is something therapeutic about sliding on a Jimmy Choo original or a Manolo Blahnik classic, and smelling the insides of the shoe box carton. Shoes make women feel great.

Now that we know the psychology behind the phenomenon, what is the lesson for us men? That we should open a "shoe spa salon?" Not a bad idea. That women with stacks of shoes at home are clinically depressed and that we should now call them "Cinderella?" Not really.

As with any therapy session, a man should always participate with his woman. For the therapy to succeed, and for the man to be in the good graces of his girlfriend, he should never fail to support and accompany his partner to the shoe store. The man should be part of the process. Go inside the store with her. Admire the shoes she's trying on. Pay her a compliment as she's walking around the store. Nod your head a few times and offer a smile. Above all, don't flirt with the sales staff! If you follow my advice, then, eventually, you'll not only be her Prince Charming sliding the glass slipper on her feet but, more importantly, you'll be her Mr. Right sliding the ring on her finger. Oh, one more thing, have your wallet ready.

Jael Wenceslao, 23, is a BS Business Management graduate from the Ateneo de Manila University.

Can we be a tiger's copycat?

WE have now in Congress a group of young lawmakers who are more aggressive than their elders in tackling the poverty problem. Their strategy is to limit child production to only two siblings. Why only two as the maximum, it's probably because each one of us has only two kidneys (or two ears or two nostrils) for sustaining life on planet earth. Seriously speaking, whether two is the optimal number has yet to be established by actuarial calculations.

What if the lawmakers pass a retroactive law? Then, how many of our children shall we slaughter? Whether retroactive or not, the effect is the same. Killing a new-born baby is the same as preventing its birth.

The Bible says "Go and multiply." But our lawmakers are now telling us: "Go slow and multiply only by two." What a restrictive amendment to the Laws of Moses. And to think that King Solomon, the wisest of them all, and the most productive, did not allow such curtailment of freedom.

If our lawmakers would have their way, a lot of complications could follow to put our so-called civil society in disarray.

The abortionists will have a grand time practising their occupation. The demand for birth control drugs and devices will sky-rocket. Prostitutes will go on rampage promoting their trade. Adultery will be on the rise. We will suffer a moral decay. Unwanted, deformed babies will go to trash cans. And worst of all, all doors will open wider to drug trafficking.

What is this kind of living if our loving is limited to only two offsprings!

And Jesus said, "Suffer these little children to come to me, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

It is a psychological phenomenon that people always find a way of doing in secret things that are forbidden in public. Unrealistic restrictions can provoke dereliction of obligations that can only be self-defeating in purpose.

There is much more to confronting poverty than limiting family size to the minimum. The development of human resources is a key factor to a country's economic growth. Depopulation runs counter to this theory by limiting the supply of manpower.

A near-zero rate of population growth is probably reasonable if a populous nation has already reached full development. For a small underdeveloped nation like the Philippines, depopulation may be impractical. The Philippines is rich in undeveloped natural resources that require a good supply of manpower for optimal utility. This is where human resource development can come in to fight poverty.

The bottom line is: A small nation that we are with so much undeveloped natural resources just cannot play copycat to big China's one-child policy.

—PANFILO J. ROSAURO,
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English as a tool for success

THE PRIMARY purpose of a school is to help students finish the course they pursue. The second phase is to help them find jobs commensurate with the skills they acquired during their tertiary education. But there is one usual obstacle: they lack the ability to speak the English language.

Indeed, the Filipinos' competency in English has so drastically deteriorated that even the writing of a simple essay has become too arduous for college students. The fact is for our graduates to be more competitive in the job market here and abroad, they have to be proficient in English, which is today's international language. The ability to speak English well also enhances one's personality and, in that sense, the language can be a tool for advancement in the corporate ladder and success.

But proficiency in English can be acquired not just through an individual's continual effort to speak the language but also with help from the institutional environment that incessantly offers, as a priority, the opportunity to learn the language. It is imperative that we create for our students that environment.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza's advocacy to use English as a medium of instruction at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila and in two other city-owned institutions is much appreciated. It will be adopted upon approval by the students who will be primarily affected by its implementation. Some have argued that using English as the principal medium of instruction is anti-nationalistic. It is not, however, language that makes a Filipino less of a Filipino. It is one's mind-set, disposition, action and behavior.

—RANIR SUSANO BONDOC,
student,
Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila,
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Scared of Edsa II?

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should never forget that her first three years in Malacañang were made possible by the wonders of text messaging—the technology that Edsa II forces used to mobilize themselves in 2000.

Now, people are asking whether the Arroyo administration is so scared of its own past that it now wants to kill the joy of text messaging by taxing its users to death.

The distorted logic of some government officials is to make texting more expensive by imposing additional taxes on every message sent through it, so as to dissuade people from using this tool to express their misgivings about government and our worsening economic condition.

But President Arroyo should see how text messaging has brought Filipinos closer together like never before—overseas Filipino workers can now communicate daily with loved ones in the Philippines, while friends and family members get to keep in constant touch with one another.

I believe though that government wants some more tax on text messaging to increase its revenues, not because of threats to its stability. This measure, if it pushes through, would send the wrong signal to Filipinos—that the Arroyo administration is insensitive to the needs of its people. Why would GMA saddle herself with that public perception when she has barely started her fresh six-year term?

—RYAN CONSTANTINO,
148 Bangkal St., Meycauyan Bulacan

A dangerous, anti-development belief

IN THE ARTICLE "Vatican: Feminism Dangerous to Family" (PDI, 8/2/04), the Catholic Church came up with an insincere and confused belief on gender equality. Insincere, for it wants us to gloss over the realities of women's subordination when subordination is the very cause of inequalities that have long put women in a disadvantaged position. Confused, because women's rights as human rights is indivisible, inalienable and universal; hence, it would be wrong to accord women some of these rights and deny them of others, or to give some women certain rights while refusing others the same rights.

In this country where Church and State separation is just a suggestion rather than a constitutional mandate, such belief could be dangerous, especially when stated against a backdrop where the government is yet to provide a clear population policy and support for women's reproductive health and rights. Such belief could undermine the gains made by the government in the population program. Such belief might even find its way in the formulation of the government's development plan that is yet to include a concrete women's empowerment agenda.

Pray that such belief just remain as is: religious confusion and half-heartedness on women's concerns and issues.

—IRENE F. DAGUNO,
ifdaguno@fastmail.fm

Marginalized gov't workers in war on corruption

WHY can't the Philippines duplicate the economic progress of India, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea? As independent nations, these countries have progressed faster than when they were under colonial rule. Our country used to be ahead of them. But we haven't progressed as fast because of two main obstacles: corruption and poverty.

Corruption and poverty are like twin parasites feeding on each another. You can't fight one separately from the other and expect to succeed. The need is to fight the two simultaneously with pooled resources. Anti-corruption and anti-poverty programs and projects will just fizzle out without adequate funding or proper implementation, or both. The government, civil society and business community should therefore join forces, share information and complement one another in an all out war against these problems. The private sector should contribute a larger share of resources, which can be obtained here and abroad. Instead of getting involved in government policy-making and actions, civil society and business leaders should concern themselves where they can best attack the problems.

The policy thrusts in fighting poverty and corruption remain separate, uncoordinated, incoherent and fragmented *(kanya-kanya)*. There is a clear bias toward helping the so-called marginalized or disadvantaged sector. Anti-poverty programs have been dominated for too long by livelihood projects with the government and NGOs providing start-up capital, financing, marketing assistance, etc. that almost always end up as dole-outs. Worse, social welfare programs are based on theoretical, textbook concepts depending on who is in charge, only to be radically changed when someone else takes over. Lacking focus, the programs drain too much resources even as the resources are spread so thin; it's like mixing a jar of instant coffee in a swimming pool.

The resources available can be better used in attacking the economic difficulties of the families of government workers living below poverty line, instead of those of the disadvantaged sector. Unknown to many, the poverty incidence among the families of public employees is higher than among the marginalized. The point is government workers will be under less pressure to commit graft and corruption if their families are above the poverty line. Funds for the disadvantaged, who have no business experience, can be put to better use to help dependents of policemen, for instance, start other means of livelihood to augment family income. This way, scarce resources can be used more productively, making an impact on the anti-corruption campaign. In the end, the marginalized will benefit from such use of resources through improved public services, which, in turn, will create a better business environment conducive to investments, thus generating more job opportunities.

—FRANK WENCESLAO,
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Traders plan closure of hog farms

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Fed up with the government's failure to protect the welfare and interest of local hog raisers and swine producers, the key players in the industry announced they are closing down their farms within a year.

The drastic move is expected to displace about 250,000 workers in the swine industry and allied industries nationwide.

In a statement, the South Cotabato Swine Producers Association (Socospa), urged the government to "put in place shock absorbers" to cushion the effects on the economy of the closure of swine farms.

The local hog industry here supplies about 30 percent of Metro Manila's meat requirement.

The statement said instead of producing meat, local investors will tie up with their foreign counterparts in importing pork and in putting up processing centers in key areas in the country.

Socospa president James Chua, Sultan Kudarat Swine Raisers Chair Benedict Garde and Upper Valley Multi-Purpose Cooperative head Romeo Alzona said they were consulted by their counterparts from the Visayas and Luzon and that they all agreed to the planned phase-out.

In the same statement, the groups claimed they found it difficult to continue the fight for bio-security protection and stop the smuggling of imported pork after the resignation of Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo.

The hog raisers warned that prices of pork may increase if there would be a shortage of supply in the market during the phase-out period.

The closure of swine farms would not just lead to retrenchment of workers or increase in prices of pork.

This may also have a rippling effect on other agricultural sectors like corn and copra producers and feed producers.

The city is one of the areas that might be seriously affected by the death of the P1.2 billion swine industry.

General Santos ships out to Manila about 20,000 head of hogs every month.

The country is expected to spend some $1.8 billion a year on pork importation. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Antiterrorism training ends; US troops leave

CARMEN, North Cotabato—Thousands of protesters from all over Mindanao bade goodbye to American soldiers who participated in the antiterror training called Balance Piston 04-03 that ended here yesterday.

The farewell program, held at the town plaza, started with a Muslim prayer.

The protesters said they wish the American soldiers would not only leave Carmen but the rest of the country, especially Mindanao, for good. and to never come back again.

"We are here not just to show our simple goodbye to them but also to show them our disgust over their disrespect [of] the people's sentiments and fears and the issues that cover Mindanao and its people . . . they're just not welcome here," said Zainab Ampatuan, deputy secretary general of the party-list group Suara Bangsamoro.

In the closing ceremony, which barely lasted for 30 minutes, the Americans said they would head straight for Okinawa, Japan.

Maj. Michael Donnelly, spokesperson of the US contingent, said they will proceed to the airport after the closing ceremony as they had already packed their things up.

But the Americans said they were always ready and willing to work with their Filipino counterparts in the future.

Maj. Robert Ball, US contingent commander, and Donnelly praised the Filipino soldiers' ability to grasp the training inputs.

"You guys sacrificed a lot. My heart goes out [to] you and I appreciate what we have shared together. It's a beautiful morning here and hopefully there [would] be more [exercises] for the people of the Philippines and of the world," Ball said addressing the 199 Filipino and 32 American soldiers who participated in the three-week training.

A day before the training ended, Armed Forces chief Gen. Narciso Abaya visited Camp Lucero and announced that more trainings similar to Balance Piston are in the pipeline.

Militant groups said Abaya's statement only confirmed their suspicions that more exercises would be held this year.

Bayan Muna Rep. Joel Virador said the military exercises invite trouble. "We don't want to be involved in their war against other sovereign countries . . . they should not deceive the Filipinos with their policy of 'permanent-temporary' occupation [of] the Philippines," Virador said.

Maj. Gen. Raul Relano, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said he could not understand why militants oppose the holding of the training.

"They must understand that a well-trained soldier or police will mean competent, efficient enforcers of the law," Relano said. *Jeffrey Tupas and Germelina Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WHILE militants protest a US-led military training in North Cotabato, ordinary people flock to a center set up to distribute free medicines courtesy of the organizers of the war games.

JEFFREY TUPAS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

NUJP hits plan to 'embed' troops

THE NATIONAL Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) yesterday slammed plans by the Armed Forces of the Philippines to "embed" troops among media outfits.

In a statement, the group said this is "a heavy-handed attempt at news management and the latest sign of the constriction of democratic space in the country."

In letters to military officials and the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas, the NUJP questioned how the soldiers would be able to maintain objective reportage. It urged the KBP to uphold independent reportage.

The NUJP was reacting to news reports on the training of 30 Western Mindanao-based soldiers maintain radio programs.

Laguna gov defies GMA on road user tax, to continue collection

CALAMBA CITY—Despite President Macapagal-Arroyo's instruction to the provincial government to stop the collection of the road users' tax, Laguna Gov. Teresita Lazaro yesterday said they stand firm on their decision to collect fees from truckers using provincial roads.

In a statement, Lazaro said the collection of P500 from trucks and vans traversing the province was legal pursuant to a provincial ordinance passed in 1992.

She said the annual fee was needed to "sustain Laguna's continuous progress and economic development for the benefit of the people."

She cited a clause in the Local Government Code which stated that "the power to impose tax, fee or charge to generate revenue . . . shall be exercised by the Sanggunian . . . through an appropriate ordinance."

Lazaro said the collection is legal as long as it is pegged not higher than P500.

The President berated Lazaro and the provincial treasurer after a businessman complained about the road users' tax during the third "Pulong Bayan" (town assembly) held Wednesday at the Ford Compound inside the Special Economic Complex in Sta. Rosa town.

Upon hearing the business sector's protest, Ms Arroyo apparently lost her cool, saying only the national government could impose taxes on motorists plying national roads built from the national government fund.

"You can sue me in court just to prove who among us is right," Ms Arroyo told Lazaro at the meeting.

In an interview on television, Lazaro said she understood what the President was trying to do. "The President just wanted to impress investors so that they may go in our province and put up their business here," Lazaro said.

The governor also explained that the P500 fee is very minimal "considering that the ordinance has long been implemented since 1992."

Aside from possible revenue loss, she also feared that several employees would be displaced if they ceased the collection. She said they employ about 40 people in maintaining the collection of the road users' tax. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau with report from Nelson Flores in Manila*

Tips from reb leader on fake tax demands

BACOLOD CITY—How can you determine if the letter demanding payment for revolutionary taxes really comes from the New People's Army?

Luis Jalandoni, chief negotiator of the communist-led National Democratic Front, gave out some tips on how to spot a bogus demand letter from the real one.

If the letterhead contains too many details like phone and fax numbers, most likely it comes from a group that wants to use the NPA's name to make a quick buck.

The letterhead of the real NDF/NPA letters is simple. It only contains the name and the logo of the unit responsible for the tax collection.

Jalandoni said usually, the rebels talk with individuals and companies when they deliver letters for revolutionary taxes.

"This is undertaken through dialogue and negotiations with companies and individuals concerned to come to an understanding," he said.

"The usual procedure of the NPA was to go through a process of a dialogue first," he added.

Jalandoni said those who receive demand letters should validate their authenticity because there are groups that use the name of the NPA to extort money from people.

"There are means of validating the authenticity of letter," he added.

The communist rebels have been sending demand letters to residents and companies in areas where they operate. Refusal to pay revolutionary taxes is usually met with punitive actions by the NPA.

Some companies stopped operations after their equipment or property was torched by the NPA for failing to pay the revolutionary taxes.

When asked about the attacks made by the NPA on those who did not pay taxes, Jalandoni, a Negrense priest-turned-rebel, replied: "It is the prerogative of the revolutionary government to impose taxes . . . and it also carries with it some coercive force to ensure compliance."

"Revolutionary tax is a policy of the revolutionary movement . . . where it has control or influence," he told a news conference on Thursday.

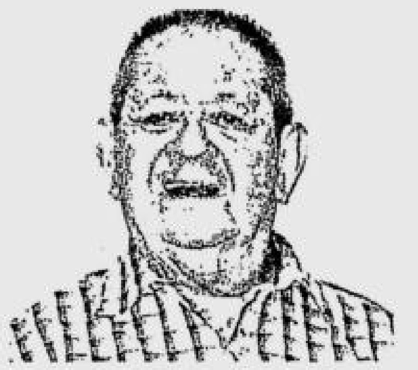
Part of the collections, he added, go back in the form of services to the people and a portion finances the operations of the revolutionary movement.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

APPEAL BY SIMNY GUY, SISTERS GRACE, GERALDINE AND GLADYS: "PLEASE SHOW US OUR FATHER"

We, the distraught wife and daughters of Mr. Francisco Guy, who was taken away by our own son Gilbert to an unknown location five (5) months ago, would like to announce to the public that we are offering a reward of One Million Pesos(P1,000,000.00) to anyone who can provide information that will lead to the whereabouts of Francisco.

Upon the suggestion of relatives, friends, and colleagues in the business community, together, we have raised one million to anyone who can give us information that will lead us to where Papa is.



Francisco Guy

We would also like to express our gratitude to our relatives and friends who gave the suggestion and even contributed money for the reward.

Your father and I will die soon Gilbert. Please allow us to spend the rest of our lives together. ***Maikli na lang ang buhay namin. Buong buhay magkasama kami ng Papa mo at ginawa naming lahat para maging maganda ang buhay mo.*** **Please let me embrace your father before one of us dies.**

Sa mga tao, maawa po kayo. Tulungan ninyo ako para makita si Soon See. Gusto ko siyang makita at mahawakan.

Together with your sisters, Grace, Gladys and Geraldine, I would like to reiterate our promise that we are willing to help you with your financial problems. "Don't be desperate about your problems with money. We will help you. Do not hurt your father. He's been good to us, especially to you.

Please stop harassing us. Puro kami babae at walang laban sa iyo. All we want is to see our father alive before it's too late.

Any information leading to the whereabouts of Mr. Francisco Guy may contact VICTOR L. CHAN LAW OFFICE & ASSOCIATES at 7246629 and 7219283. The public is assured that all information relayed to the law office and the identities of those providing the information will be strictly confidential.

SIMNY, GRACE, GLADYS, GERALDINE GUY

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INQUIRER Visayas
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Manobos travel 1,000 km for livelihood

By Vicente S. Labro
Tacloban City

VICENTE S. LABRO/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

Bae Divina Padecio inspects the sprouts of bell pepper plants in their farm at the Manobo settlement in Barangay Bagacay, Tacloban City.

TRANSPLANTED to a place about a thousand kilometers from their homeland, the Manobos knew that to survive, they have to do what they do best—farm.

Since they moved into a settlement here about a decade ago, 65-year-old Datu Rico Padecio and his Manobo tribe have been cultivating a vegetable farm. They have already planted hundreds of hardwood trees inside a 241-hectare reforestation site near their community.

Rows of plots with sprouting seedlings of red bell peppers and other vegetables adorn their farm on the right side of their village.

At the rear, big vines clinging to sturdy tall trees are a common sight up to the top of a once balding mountain in Barangay Bagacay, Tacloban, Leyte.

A newly constructed water system project, with a dam at a nearby watershed, provides water to both the village and the farm.

Water system project

Costing about P1 million, the water system project was funded by the German government and was made possible through the City Environment and Natural Resources Office and its consultants.

"It replaced the improvised water system we had," said Datu Rico, referring to their old water system that he himself built with the use of bamboo poles.

He said the bamboo water system was also effective in delivering water from the watershed to their homes and the vegetable farm.

He is thankful that their water system is now permanent and could be of use once they expand their farm.

"Foreign governments really help especially when they see that we are working hard for our vegetable and tree farms," he said.

Aside from the German government, the Japanese government also funded a rattan nursery project and the construction of a training center in the Manobo settlement.

"But of course we owe a lot to the national and city governments," he said, "for it is for them that we are now here."

The Manobo settlement is just a kilometer way from the national highway and about eight kilometers from the city proper.

A tree house near the gate greets visitors to their compound, which has eight houses and Datu Rico's tree house that overlooks their vegetable farm.

A model

The Manobo settlement has become a model in vegetable farming that last month, the Department of Agriculture regional office conducted a vegetable production and capability building training there for indigenous people in Eastern Visayas.

Those who attended were some 20 Manobo and Mamanwa chieftains from Abuyog and Mahaplag towns and Ormoc City in Leyte and Sta. Rita town in nearby Samar province.

There are reportedly hundreds of Manobos dispersed in several areas in the region. The Mamanwa is a subgroup of the Manobo tribe. Unlike the fair complexioned Manobos, they are dark-skinned and have curly hair.

Lured by the good paying jobs offered by seven logging firms in Samar, many Manobos and Mamanwas left Mindanao in early 1980s to work either as foresters, nursery workers, carpenters or they take on any other available job.

Greener pasture

Among them were the Padecios. Datu Rico worked as radio operator while his wife Bae Divina Padecio worked as a midwife at the infirmary.

They brought their four young children when they left their hometown of La Paz, Agusan del Sur, about a thousand kilometers south of Tacloban City.

Bae Divina recalled everything went well for them in Samar at that time. They were even able to send their children to a private school in Tacloban.

Their youngest child has just graduated from a tourism course. Their eldest son is a forester working in Mindanao. A daughter is an agribusiness graduate who is now working in Manila. Another daughter is an animal health graduate who wants to proceed to veterinary medicine.

The logging firms stopped their operations in 1989 when then President Corazon Aquino declared a logging moratorium on the whole island after weeks of continuous heavy rains triggered floods and landslides, killing about 100 people and destroying millions of pesos worth of crops.

The disaster was blamed on illegal and commercial logging on Samar Island.

Although they lost their jobs, many of the Manobos remained in the region, hoping that the logging firms would reopen.

The Padecios and some of their fellow Manobos stayed in Barangays Rawis and Guirang in Basey. They resorted to slash and burn farming and food gathering in the forest for their daily sustenance.

First break

In the early 1990s, reports of malnutrition among the young and old Manobos forced the government to relocate them to a resettlement area in Palo, Leyte.

The Padecios later sought refuge in a religious foundation in Tacloban City.

Their first break came when the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) hired the Manobos to reforest a mountain under the community-based management program in Barangay Nulatula, the village before Barangay Bagacay.

Then they were offered the reforestation project in Barangay Bagacay where they have so far planted trees in about 150 hectares of the mountain near where they now live.

Bae Divina said that when they first arrived in Bagacay, they had practically nothing except the clothes on their back.

No possessions

Datu Rico and other male members of their group made a clearing and built a long house in the isolated area. Their first home had jute sacks as walls and dividers.

Some 15 Manobo families were cramped in that long house that night. The following day, they started building separate homes even as they climbed and cleared the mountain of weeds and vines for their reforestation project. They also started to cultivate a farm for their food.

Bae Divina said she attended a seminar on loofah production and learned that there was a high demand for loofah products. It was then they decided to venture into *patola* or gourd farming.

With Datu Rico's bamboo water system, their *patola* farm flourished. In a short time, Bae Divina was already joining trade fairs not only in Tacloban but also in Metro Manila.

Bea Divina also expects to export some of their loofah handicraft items soon. "We already have contacts abroad," she said.

At present, the couple concentrated on bell pepper while waiting for the arrival of the hybrid *patola* seed they recently acquired, which they hoped to plant in a bigger farm in another site.

Helping the others

Bae Divina is also assisting Manobos and Mamanwas from other places who decided to cultivate a vegetable garden in the Manobo settlement. "We allowed them to have their gardens here on condition that they will work hard to succeed," she said.

Among the newcomers are Merlyn Sacbang, his husband Lucio and her siblings Lita and Rolly Kalipayan. They are cultivating a small lot with the DA, providing them with the vegetable seeds and other farm inputs.

Merlyn and her group are residing in Barangay San Pedro in Sta. Rita, Samar. With no land of their own, they work in farms of other people for a fee.

Life is getting hard on them that they hope their vegetable farm could help improve their situation.

Promised land

These newcomers want to succeed like the Manobos at Barangay Bagacay, whose farm is now supplying vegetables to Tacloban City.

Bae Divina believes that their settlement is a "promised land" not only for her family but also for the other members of their tribe.

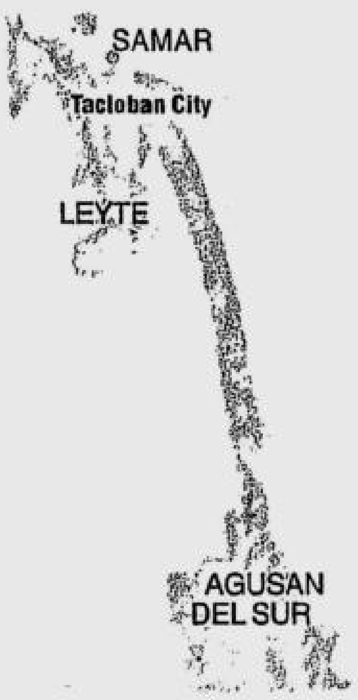
She said the land is fertile and their vegetable garden has been successful. Aside from bell pepper and gourd, they also have been planting other vegetables like pechay, string beans and asparagus.

Bae Divina is excited with their vegetable production project under the DA regional office, which introduced a mix of modern and traditional methods of farming.

"We don't spray with insecticide our vegetables and we use traditional ways of caring for the plants," she said, adding that they also cover the plots with plastic sheets and employ other modern farming methods but using less inorganic fertilizer and more compost.

Bae Divina hopes to engage soon in organic farming, saying this will finally be like what their forebears did in Mindanao a long, long time ago.

MANOBOS OF MINDANAO



THE 1,000-km distance from Agusan del Sur to Tacloban City was travelled by the Manobo group of Datu Padecio in search of livelihood.

MANOBOS are often considered the original *lumad* of Mindanao. There are over 300,000 Manobos in Mindanao with up to 20 different distinct groups. Each Manobo subgroup has a primary language with usually Cebuano or Ilonggo being their market language.

They are primarily upland dwellers using shift and burn cultivation to raise crops. Many are still hunters and gatherers where there remains ample forest.

They are usually led by a *datu* or chieftain and are grouped in clans. Each clan usually has an *ashaman* or spiritual leader, a warrior class and commoners.

In most Manobo groups, men can have more than one wife (if he can provide adequately) but women only have one husband. Some of the Manobo groups are still considered fierce and warlike.

Some are already Christian while others still adhere to animism. From www.peopleteams.com

VICENTE LABRO/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

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ROTUND TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
A girl shows off a bunch of *santol* fruits she and her father harvested in their backyard in Benguet province.

2 DEAD, THOUSANDS HOMELESS

Puerto fire traced to suicide try

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A distressed paralytic who tried to commit suicide by setting himself on fire was tagged as the cause of a three-hour fire that razed three coastal villages in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan Thursday, police said.

The fire left at least two people dead and more than 1,000 families homeless.

Chief Supt. Alejandro Lapinid, Mimaropa (Mindoro Marinduque Romblon Palawan) police director, said initial investigation revealed that the fire started at around 1:15 p.m. after Dominador Cidaya, 45, of Barangay Tagumpay, poured gasoline on his body and set himself on fire.

"Residents said Cidaya had become depressed and wanted to kill himself after suffering from a stroke recently. Unfortunately, thousands of people were badly affected by his decision," Lapinid told the INQUIRER.

He said strong winds coming from the seafront fanned the fire that gutted over 500 houses in Barangays Tagumpay, Seaside 1 and Seaside 2.

The three villages have a population of over 8,000, he said.

Resident Rogelio Dadula, 36, a mechanic, was also killed in the fire after he was electrocuted when he fell from the roof of their house.

A six-month-old baby, identified as Novelyn Marquez, was reported missing and was believed to have died at the height of the fire.

Several residents were injured as they tried to save personal belongings, police said.

Police estimated the value of property that was destroyed in the fire at P15 million. Lapinid said firemen were able to put off the fire before 4 p.m.

Lapinid, who also chairs the regional disaster coordinating council, said the displaced families were relocated at the city's sports complex and public elementary schools.

He said Mayor Edward Hagedorn had already released 500 sacks of rice for distribution. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Health execs ask Pangasinan folk to shun raw food

DAGUPAN CITY—Health officials asked Pangasinenses not to eat raw food like *kilawen* and seaweeds to avoid contracting gastroenteritis which continues to trouble Pangasinan because of the rainy season.

Eduardo Janairo, DOH regional director, said the outbreak was initially waterborne and cholera cases were prevalent in areas with poor sanitation and poor access to sources of safe drinking water.

Most cholera patients from 17 towns and two cities draw water from shallow wells, poorly constructed deep wells and open wells, he said.

But food and seafood may also be contaminated and now account for some of the more recent cases, he added.

DOH records said 4,535 acute gastroenteritis cases and 47 deaths, 34 of whom were children below 10 years old, were recorded in 42 towns and four cities of Pangasinan.

Of the total number of gastro cases, 160 were confirmed to be caused by the *vibrio cholera* organism, 75 percent of which took ill children below 10 years old.

The epidemic began on May 31 and the cases came mostly from Malasiqui town.

The next cases came from Basista and San Carlos City.

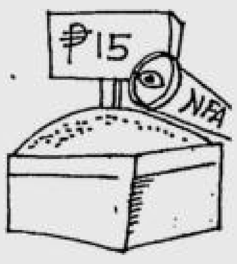
There are fewer victims now but health officials said gastroenteritis is still a threat because of the rainy season.

They advised people to cook or warm food and properly store them. Utensils for cooking or eating should be washed well. People should also wash their hands before preparing or cooking food.

The use of chlorine in water, the officials said, would help, too. But for people with no access to chlorine, boiling water would do, they said. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Rice price watch



CALAPAN CITY—The National Food Authority's Oplan Palengke Watch is monitoring the prices of rice in Oriental Mindoro with a team formed to also impose penalties on violators of NFA guidelines, including overpricing and commercialization of NFA rice. Gloria Arenillo, NFA provincial manager, said NFA rice should be sold at P750 per cavan or P15 per kilo. In designated "Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke," a cavan of rice is sold at P700 while a kilo is P14. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Disaster training

CALAPAN CITY—In observance of the National Disaster Consciousness Month, the Public Safety Department (PSD) here conducted a disaster management training for teachers under the Department of Education Calapan City Division. It is the first time for some 60 teachers to learn about the activity, said Lovelle Manigbas-Rago, the only woman among almost 80 staff members. The DepEd is a member of the city disaster coordinating council. The PSD provides a 24-hour emergency operation center in the old city hall, where paramedics and firemen would be available.
Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

P500,000 for school

CALAPAN CITY—The provincial school board has allocated P500,000 for the Diosdado Macapagal Memorial High School in Gloria, Oriental Mindoro for additional buildings and classrooms, according to Gov. Bartolome Marasigan Sr. in his recent visit to Gloria town. The fund is a counterpart to the P1.8-million fund allocated by the municipality, according to Cristina Alegre, administrative officer of the provincial planning office. Another P500,000 will be allocated to the school by the provincial government in the 2005 budget, said Alegre.
Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Rabies prompts suicide

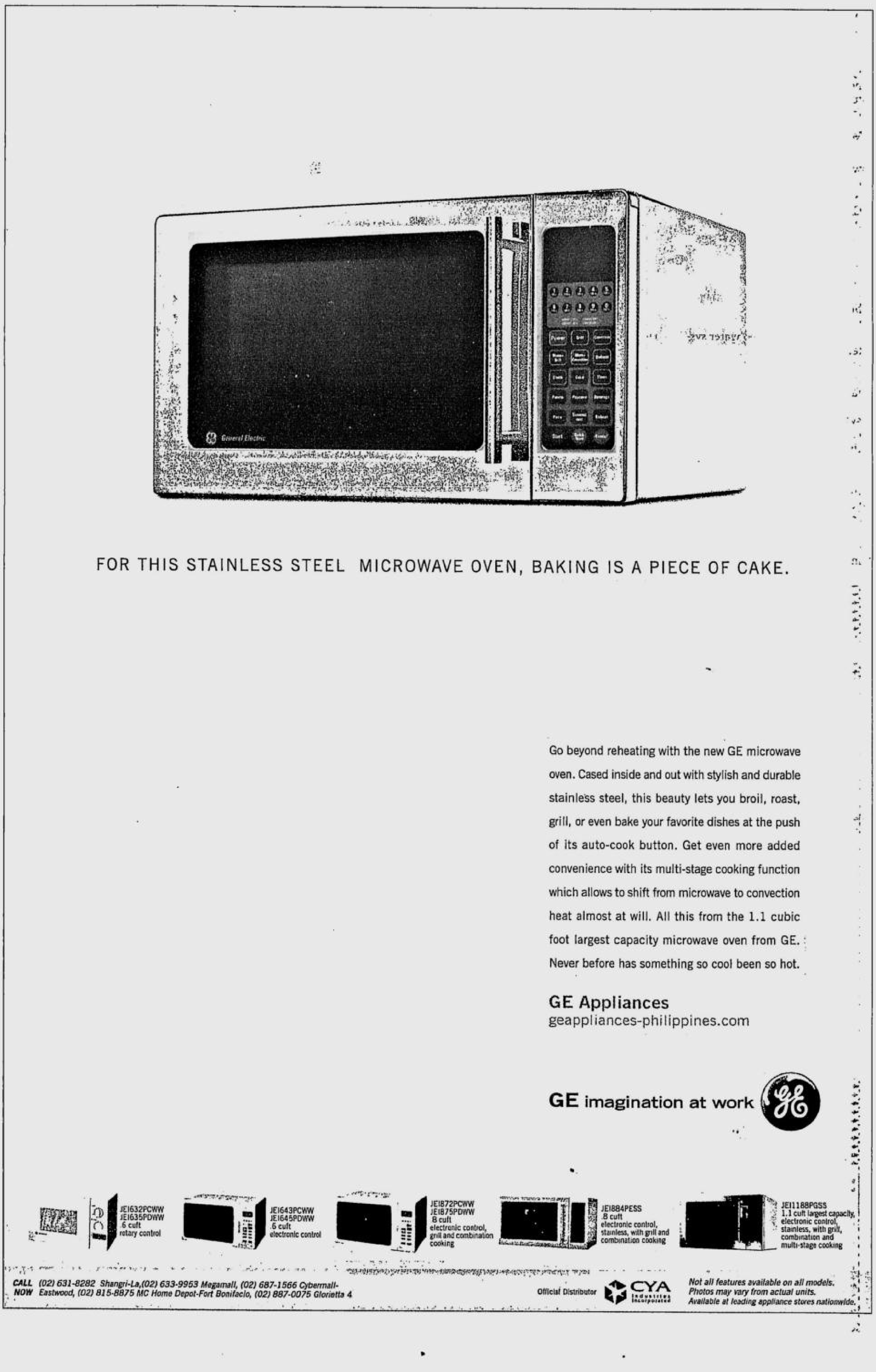
MALINAO, Albay—A man who learned that he was dying because of rabies decided to commit suicide before the disease could kill him. Lorenzo Esplana, 33, a resident of Barangay Balading here, stabbed himself in the chest, causing his instant death Wednesday night inside their house. Esplana was reportedly bitten by a dog two years ago but never consulted a doctor. But on Wednesday morning, Esplana showed unusual behavior, which prompted his family to take him to hospitals in Tabaco City and Legazpi City. Doctors found him positive of rabies and advised him to be placed at the hospital's isolation room. But Esplana's family decided to bring him home. *Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Woman held for theft

BALANGA CITY—Police on Tuesday arrested a woman for transporting electric wires illegally cut from the facilities of the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant in Morong, Bataan. BNPP security officers and policemen arrested Liwanag Malibiran of Barangay Diwa, Pilar town for possessing 60 kilograms of conductor wires. The wires reportedly came from the BNPP deep well pump and were loaded into Malibiran's passenger jeepney. Police said the wires, worth about P12,340, were bought by Malibiran from a Morong resident for P2,300. Reports said some residents living near the BNPP Compound steal wires from the facility and sell these to scrap buyers in the area. *Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Robbers loot P3M

CANDON CITY, Ilocos Sur—At least P3-million worth of jewelry and cash were taken by robbers from a store in Barangay San Antonio here on Tuesday. Police said the suspects entered the Candon Bombay Bazaar by destroying the roof of the Marga Building, where the bazaar is located. Reports said the suspects destroyed the store's steel vault by using a crowbar and took P12,000 in cash and at least 400 assorted pieces of jewelry and wristwatches worth about P3 million inside it. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*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Bombs kill 17 Pentagon gang terrorists

From page A1

Tahir.

Armed Forces of the Philippines Public Information Office chief Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero confirmed that the attack took place but could not confirm the number of casualties from either side.

Philippine National Police Deputy Director General Virtus Gil, who directed the police special forces in the operation, said he received a field report that 15 Pentagon members were killed in the raid.

Maj. Gen. Raul Relano also confirmed that 17 members of the Pentagon group were killed in the attack.

Misquoted

But Col. Franklin del Prado, spokesperson of the 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao, said Relano was misquoted in reports on the killing of 17 Pentagon members.

Del Prado claimed Relano had never released figures on the Pentagon casualties.

"As far as the Army is concerned, we cannot provide you with casualty figures as of yet," Del Prado told the INQUIRER.

Leader believed killed

Col. Agustin Dema-ala, commander of the Army's 604th Brigade based in Tacurong City in Sultan Kudarat, said there were unconfirmed reports Pentagon leader Alonto Tahir was among those killed.

"As of now, the place is still under attack in an area we believe is the lair of Alonto. We believe that Alonto could be one of the casualties," Lucero said.

The air strikes were conducted by fighter bombers from the Philippine Air Force. Ground troops from the Marines and the elite Scout Ranger battalions were later dispatched in clearing operations.

Intelligence reports, Lucero said, had revealed that Alonto was hiding out in the area. When there was strong evidence provided by the MILF, the attack commenced.

AFP Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga told reporters that he ordered the assault against the Pentagon group hiding out in the marsh near Midpankan, SK Pendatun.

MILF not target

He clarified that the target was Alonto and not the MILF rebels as peace talks are being held between the government and the secessionist Muslim group.

"We have directed the conduct of this operation at Tahir Alonto. This is aimed at neutralizing Tahir. This is not targeted against the MILF. We are abiding by the ceasefire agreement," Senga said.

Tahir's group, blamed for several high profile kidnappings including that of five Chinese engineers working on the Malmar Dam in Carmen, North Cotabato, is believed to be holding Cotabato City car dealer Norman Sia and grocery owner Zoila Kansi of Lambayaong, Sultan Kudarat.

Info from MILF

Sia had been held since December 2003 while Kansi was snatched in February.

Del Prado said Tahir's group was monitored in the village of Lumabao in SK Pendatun prior to the bombing sortie.

Kabalu said the MILF itself provided the military information on Tahir's whereabouts.

Kabalu said as early as Thursday, MILF rebels had completed their pullout from the village so they would not be hit by the bombs.

Del Prado said the area which had been targeted was a secluded part of Lumabao and is not populated by civilians.

Fear among civilians

But Ramon Abalos, mayor of Lambayong town, which is adjacent to SK Pendatun, said the explosions sent fear among the residents and that some of them could already have evacuated.

Residents of areas surrounding the Liguasan Marsh have been used to evacuating at the slightest sound of gunshots.

Hostages

Among those abducted by the Pentagon in the past were Italian priest Guiseppe Pierantoni, five Chinese engineers and a South Korean treasure hunter all in 2001.

Pierantoni and the South Korean were released upon payment of ransom while two of the Chinese engineers were killed during a rescue operation.

In 2002, a ranking leader of the group, Faisal Marohombsar, was arrested in Quiapo but escaped a few days later. He was later killed in an alleged encounter with government troops in Cavite.

19 Abus each get 3 death terms for Lamitan kidnappings

From page A1

Two of those sentenced to death already died a few months ago.

Four of the remaining 17 were tried in absentia, having escaped from jail after a prison breakout last April.

Abu's first mass conviction

It was the first mass conviction of members of the Abu Sayyaf, a group of Islamic militants who have been kidnapping and killing Christian Muslim Filipinos, as well as foreigners, in the troubled South for the past decade.

Some of the convicted men sobbed when the verdict was read out at the tightly guarded court house in the Lamitan capital of Basilan island while crowds outside the building shouted curses at the defendants, Agence France-Presse said.

As they were led out of the courtroom, some of the defendants shouted defiantly, "Allahu Akbar" (God is great).

One of the convicted men, Bashir Mandangan, said: "It's okay, even if you kill me 10 times, I am still happy. Tell that to your government."

About 200 policemen and soldiers, backed by two armored cars, secured the entire street where the court house is situated.

In a 47-page decision, Regional Trial Court Judge Danilo Bucoy handed down three death sentences to each of the defendants for kidnapping with ransom and illegal detention.

The case involved the abduction of Edibora Yap, Sheila Tabunyag, Reina Malonzo and Joel Guillo during the siege in June 2001 of the Don Jose Torres Memorial Hospital inside the St. Peter's Compound in Lamitan.

Senior State Prosecutor Leo Dacera said Bucoy's order could be considered a landmark decision.

Controversy refuses to die

He said it was the first time a court meted out the death penalty to any Abu Sayyaf member.

The abductions occurred when the Abu Sayyaf, already holding 20 hostages seized from the Dos Palmas tourist resort off Palawan a few days earlier, raided the hospital.

Although the military claimed to have encircled the bandits, the group managed to slip out under cover of darkness, taking their hostages with them in a controversial incident that sparked charges of military collusion with the bandits.

For Yap, Tabunyag, Malonzo

The three death sentences were for the abduction of Yap, Tabunyag and Malonzo. The accused were also meted out a life sentence each in the case involving Guillo.

Yap, Tabunyag, Malonzo and Guillo were former employees of the Torres hospital.

Yap was killed along with American hostage Martin Burnham during a military rescue operation in Zamboanga del Norte in 2002.

Among those sentenced was Margani Hapilon, a cousin of bandit leader Isnilon Hapilon.

Even dead convicted

Regional State Prosecutor Ricardo Cabaron said the government originally charged 19 for the Lamitan siege but two of them died during the Black Saturday jailbreak at the Basilan Provincial Jail.

Despite their deaths, their names were not dropped from the charges and were included in the sentencing.

Cabaron told the INQUIRER that those at large, including Mubin Ibba alias Abu Black, were the "most notorious" in the group.

'Death not enough'

Malonzo and Guillo, who witnessed the promulgation, said they were elated by the decision but added it would be good if the Abu Sayyaf were totally finished off.

"I am happy, it was a speedy trial but death is not enough for them," Malonzo said.

Guillo said: "The verdict will at least serve as a lesson for the other would-be Abu Sayyaf and also serve as a strong message to other active Abu Sayyaf that they will soon fall."

No remorse

"This is a strong signal that government is determined to wipe out terrorism in the South," Aileen Marie Gutierrez, a state prosecutor, told Reuters. "The court decision shows that justice still works."

Cris Puno, an information officer of the Basilan provincial government, said the men were brought to the court under heavy guard and in handcuffs.

"They did not show remorse when the decision by Judge Danilo Bucoy was being read," Puno was quoted by Reuters as saying.

Dacera said that, for security reasons, the Department of Justice would recommend the immediate transfer of the convicts to the Bilibid prison.

In the Dos Palmas and Lamitan kidnapping incidents, many hostages were recovered or were freed after ransoms were paid. But Martin Burnham died in the rescue operation while Peruvian-born American Guillermo Sobero was beheaded by the group.

Burnham's wife, Gracia, was rescued and last month she returned to the Philippines to testify against other accused Abu Sayyaf members in a separate trial in Manila.

Supreme Court review

The convictions only involved murders and kidnappings of Filipinos committed on Basilan. The Abu Sayyaf members will face other charges for the deaths of Sobero and Martin Burnham, court officials said.

All capital punishment cases must be reviewed by the Supreme Court before the death penalty is carried out. *With AFP, Reuters*

Raps ordered filed vs 15 cops in 'Abadilla 5' case

From page A1

sentenced them to death.

But the communist urban hit squad Alex Boncayao Brigade had claimed responsibility for the killing and cleared the five men.

The five are appealing to the Supreme Court to reverse their conviction, claiming that police had tortured them into confessing to Abadilla's killing. The case has been under review by the high court since February 2000.

One of the five, Lumanog, is a kidney transplant patient.

The violations included the policemen's failure to inform the suspects of their constitutional rights, arresting and interrogating them without their lawyers present, and failing to file charges against them within 36 hours after their arrest, the panel said in an 11-page resolution.

Face 20 years in jail

It said charges should be filed against Chief Supt. Romulo Sales (since deceased), Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, Chief Inspectors Robert E. Ganzon and Romeo Regis, Senior Insp. Anthony Rodolfo, Insp. Rogelio Castillo, SPO4 Dario T. Anasco, SPO2 Pio Tarala, SPO1 Edelberto Nicanor, Insp. S. Ceddamon, SPO4 Ramira, SPO2 C. Nocum, SPO1 P. Pobre, PO3 Juanito Cabiling, and PO3 Wilfredo Hidalgo.

The policemen face up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

Without legal asistance

The DOJ panel said Lumanog, Rameses de Jesus, Costibolo, Fortuna and Napolitano were "arrested, detained and investigated without being assisted at all times by counsel of their own choice."

"Neither were they allowed visits by or permitted to confer with any member of their immediate family or by any national nongovernmental organization duly accredited by the Commission on Human Rights," the panel said.

Also, it said, police took up to six days to take all the suspects to the office of the city prosecutor for inquest.

"[This is] way beyond the maximum period of 36 hours required by law for the delivery of detained persons to the proper judicial authorities," the panel said, adding:

"The fact that the investigation of the suspects could not be terminated immediately is no defense at all. For failure to do so, delay in the delivery of detained persons to the proper judicial authority, and not arbitrary detention, was committed by the respondents."

The panel said there was enough probable cause to charge the suspects with violating the Revised Penal Code and Republic Act No. 7438, or the law on the rights of detained persons.

Insufficient evidence

But the DOJ panel cited insufficiency of evidence in dismissing the charges of grave threats, arbitrary detention, illegal arrest, grave coercion, incriminatory machinations, falsification and graft filed against the 15 policemen.

It also dismissed the same charges filed against Chief Supt. Hercules Cataluna and two other police officers, five lawyers, a certain Dino, and Abadilla's son and namesake.

Rameses de Jesus had claimed that Abadilla Jr. was present when he was tortured, and that the latter slapped him and accused him of involvement in the Abadilla ambush.

He had also claimed that he was arrested without a warrant on June 19, 1996, that he was tortured in the presence of Cataluna, Sales, Baluyot, Regis and Castillo, and that he suffered various forms of abuse to force him to admit involvement in the killing.

Further, he had claimed that he was forced to sign a seven-page affidavit and other documents and was again tortured on June 24, 1996, after he was presented at a press conference.

The Commission on Human Rights charged the respondents before the DOJ after conducting an investigation based on the complaints of human rights abuse by the Abadilla 5.

Right to counsel

The DOJ panel said the accused policemen "failed to inform the suspects, in a language known to and understood by them, of their rights to remain silent and to have competent and independent counsel, preferably of their own choice."

It said the right to be informed of these rights was not "just the ceremonial and perfunctory recitation of an abstract constitutional principle."

"As a rule, therefore, it would not be sufficient for a police officer just to repeat to the person under investigation the provision of the Constitution. He is not only duty-bound to tell the person the rights to which the latter is entitled; he must also explain their effects in practical terms," it added.

The panel also noted that the accused policemen allowed the lawyers of the suspects to visit only after the Commission on Human Rights "came into the picture" to look into the allegations of human rights abuse.

Fortuna, Napolitano and Joel de Jesus were arrested on June 19, 1996, and Lumanog, Rameses de Jesus, Costibolo and De los Santos on the following day. But the panel said they were taken to the fiscal only on June 25, 1996.

"The law imposes a positive duty on the part of the arresting officers to allow visits of the arrested and detained persons by any members of their family immediately upon their arrest and detention and not afterwards," the panel said.

Judge sitting on cases for 13 years comes to grief on Friday the 13th

From page A1

cases and should ask for an extension if they are not able to do so.

Stripped of benefits

Hamoy neglected to do this, it said.

"Members of the judiciary have the sworn duty to administer justice without delay. A judge who failed to do so has to suffer the consequences of his omission. Any delay in the disposition of cases undermines the people's faith in the judiciary," the tribunal said.

Hamoy has been stripped of all retirement benefits, except for his accrued leave credits, and barred from re-employment in the government and in government-owned or -controlled corporations.

The high court noted that Hamoy had continued to collect his salary after falsely claiming in his certificates of service that he had no pending cases to resolve.

Understanding

"A judge who fails to decide cases within the prescribed period but collects his salary upon a false certificate is guilty of dishonesty amounting to gross misconduct and deserves the condemnation of all right-thinking men," it said.

Because he was handling so many cases, his sala being the only family court in Caloocan in the late 1990s, Hamoy had asked for understanding from the tribunal.

But the Supreme Court was unmoved.

It noted that two civil cases in question were filed when Hamoy was still assigned to the Zamboanga Regional Trial Court in 1990. Worse, it said, he brought along the records of the cases without the approval of the tribunal's Office of the Court Administrator (OCA) when he was transferred to Caloocan.

From 1997 to 2001, the OCA wrote Hamoy three times for him to explain what had happened to the cases. But he ignored its queries, and replied only when the tribunal threatened to cite him for contempt.

In his explanation, the judge said he had misplaced the records in the two civil cases and "simply forgot" to reply to the OCA letters.

He said he was able to rule on the civil cases only in June and July last year because his docket "became more congested" when other courts forwarded to his sala cases falling under the family court.

He also said he had "no intention" of disregarding the directives of the court administrator or of the tribunal.

The OCA recommended that Hamoy be fined P40,000, but the Supreme Court decided that he should be booted out.

Cavalier attitude

"It appears that this is not [Hamoy's] first offense," the high court said.

It said it had admonished him in a resolution dated March 20, 2002, for failure to decide motions and pending incidents within the prescribed period, and warned him that "any subsequent transgressions he commits would be dealt with more severely."

It also said his failure to respond to the OCA letters displayed "a cavalier attitude which mocks the lawful authority" of the Supreme Court.

"In the judiciary, moral integrity is more than a cardinal virtue; it is a necessity. [Hamoy] must bear in mind that the exacting standards of conduct demanded of judges are designed to promote public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary," the tribunal said.

It added: "When the judge himself becomes the transgressor of the law which he is sworn to apply, he places his office in disrepute, encourages disrespect for the law and impairs public confidences in the integrity of the judiciary itself."

RP team is 'lean, mean' in most tightly guarded Olympics

From page A1

the Philippine campaign in the Games when they plunge into action at the Olympic Aquatic Center on Saturday.

Middleweight boxer Christopher Camat and shooter Jethro Dionisio will also see action, completing the Filipinos' schedule for the day. *(See related stories on A23).*

The Filipino boxers, the Philippines' brightest hopes for a medal, easily made the weight during Friday's official weigh-in, but Camat drew a tough opponent in the first round of the 75-kilogram division Saturday.

No illusions

He will fight Russia's Gaydarbek Gaydarberkov, the silver medallist in the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

The three other Filipino boxers—light flyweight Harry Tanamor, flyweight Violito Payla and light welterweight Romeo Brin—had better luck in Friday's draw.

Molina is entered in the 400-meter individual medley, Mendoza in the 400m freestyle and Chua in the 100m breaststroke.

But all that the Filipino swimmers can hope for is either a Philippine record or a personal best, which they hope can carry them to the next stage of the eliminations. They have no illusions about their chances of winning a medal.

The same thing goes for the other swimmers, Fil-Am youngsters James Walsh, 17, and the Harvard-bound Jaclyn Pangilinan, 18. Pangilinan will see action on Sunday in the women's 100m breaststroke, and Walsh on Monday in the 200-meter butterfly.

South Korea's archers may have shattered the first world records of the Olympics but it is China that will spearhead Asia's medal charge.

The first medals of the games will be won Saturday, when 13 golds go up for grabs.

Brimming with confidence after a third-place finish in the Sydney Olympic medal rankings four years ago, Chinese officials are targeting five of the 13 golds that will be up for grabs on the first full day of competition.

An unprecedented security blanket had been draped over the Greek capital as a trouble-plagued seven-year marathon to prepare the city for the sporting spectacular was poised to end with a lavish opening ceremony.

With areport from AFP

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New ticket system set on Monday

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THIS time, it's all go.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday announced that the agency would finally implement on Monday the Metropolitan Traffic Ticket (MTT), replacing the Traffic Violation Receipt.

With the new system, the licenses of erring drivers will no longer be confiscated. Instead, they will be issued MTTs for which they should pay corresponding fines at any Metrobank branch.

Fines to double

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said violators who would fail to settle the fine in seven days would pay twice the original fine.

Glitches in the system which the agency encountered when the MTT was put to the test last July 15 have already been solved, said Mohammad Ali Munasque, MMDA No Contact Traffic Apprehension assistant team leader.

Munasque said they initially had problems with the MTT internal system and traffic enforcers' illegible handwriting.

Handwriting training

"Many of the enforcers had to undergo training so their handwriting could be recognized by the system's scanner," he related.

He added that the enforcers were also trained on how to properly apprehend erring motorists.

Munasque said violators have to hand over their licenses to the apprehending officer. The officer would then copy the information regarding the driver and give back the license and the MTT to the motorist.

Munasque said an authorized MTT Issuing Officer could be recognized through a distinct patch displayed above their left breast pockets.

Only half of the agency's 2000 enforcers would be allowed to issue tickets.

RP, Thai ships collide off Manila

By Leila B. Salaverria

A BACOLOD-BOUND ship with 647 passengers collided with a Thai-registered cargo vessel at the entrance of the Manila North Harbor Thursday afternoon, tearing a 44-meter-long hole on the passenger vessel.

No one was reported hurt and the Coast Guard was still investigating the circumstances in the collision involving the MV Saint Joseph the Worker and MV Sea Celebrity.

However, Coast Guard spokesperson Lt. Armand Balilo said they were expecting the captains of both vessels to file a marine protest.

Going out, coming in

According to the Coast Guard, the accident happened at about 3:40 p.m. as the Saint Joseph, owned by the Negros Navigation Company Inc., was going out of the North Harbor and the Sea Celebrity, which had just come from Malaysia, was entering the port.

The Sea Celebrity was carrying logs.

The impact created a 44-meter high and one-meter wide hole on the port side of the Saint Joseph, said Balilo.

No damage was so far reported on the Thai vessel.

Balilo said the hole on the Saint Joseph was made above the water line and allowed the ship to return to port.

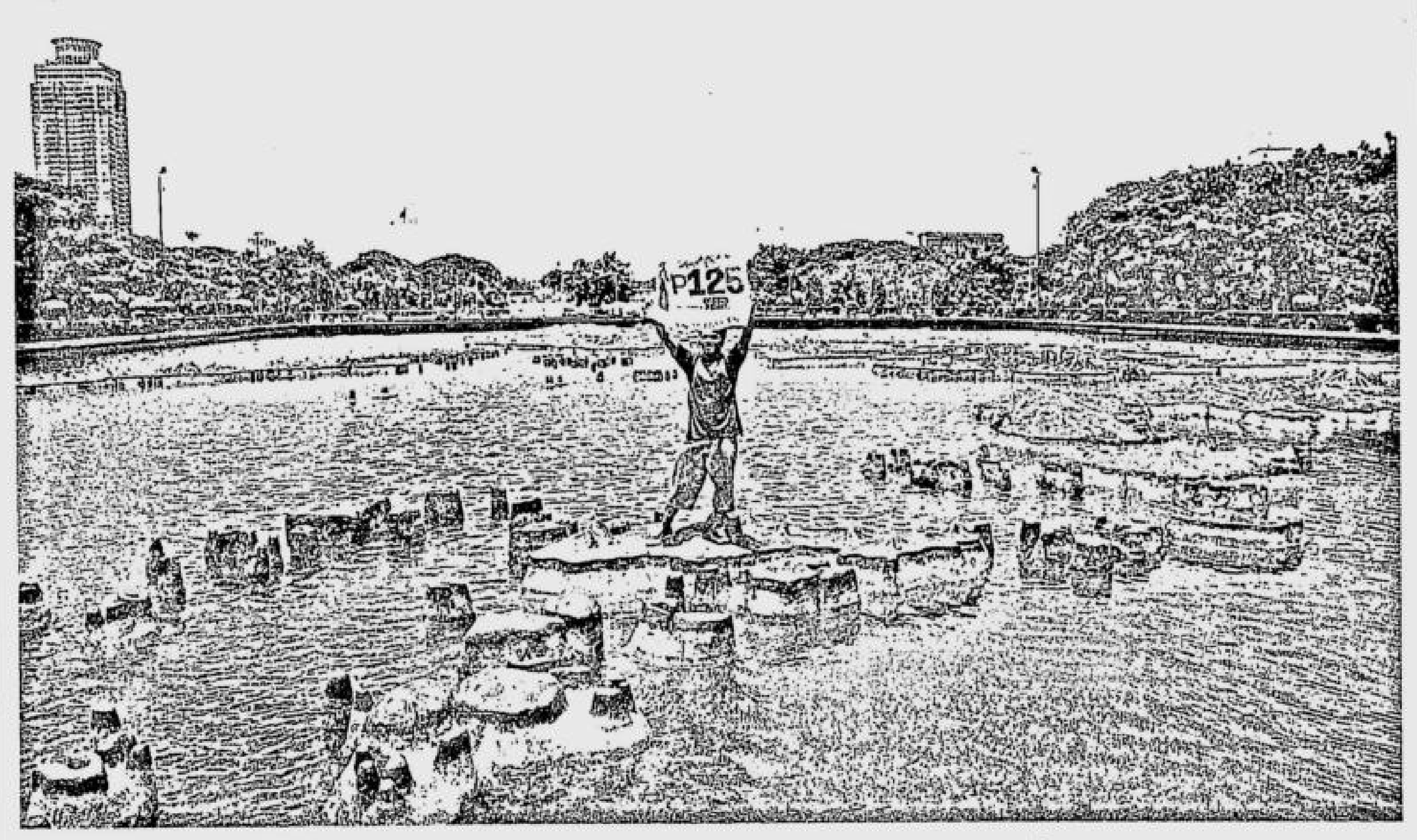
Passengers transferred

Its 647 passengers were transferred yesterday to another Nenaco ship to sail for Bacolod.

The Saint Joseph is currently docked at Pier 18, while the Sea Celebrity is at Pier 2.

According to Balilo, operatives of the port state control, which is under the Coast Guard, inspected the Sea Celebrity yesterday in connection with the collision, but, did not immediately release any findings.

"It would be difficult to say at this point who is at fault. We'd have to wait for the results of the investigation," Balilo said.



CALL OF THE ISLANDS
A member of the group Anakbayan stand on the island of "Jolo" in the relief map of the Philippines at the Luneta as the group presses for a P125 wage hike amid rising prices of oil, food, electricity and other basic goods and services. ERIK ARAZAS

Aguilar nephew in mishap slips past cops

By Luige del Puerto

THE NEPHEW of singer Freddie Aguilar who figured in the car crash that killed a Malacañang official on Sunday slipped past policemen guarding him at the hospital, the police said yesterday.

Police now fear that Jason Ivler, 22, a son of Aguilar's sister Marlene, might flee since he is an American citizen.

Ivler, the eldest of three children, is a Filipino-American studying Psychology in a Hawaii university. He is on vacation in the country and was scheduled to leave today.

"Yes, that (fear) is always there," said Sr. Supt. Ernesto Catungal, Pasig City police chief, when asked if there was a possibility that Ivler would escape to the United States.

However, Catungal added, "We assume he is at the address given to us," referring to 23 Hillside, Blue Ridge, Quezon City.

The fear of Ivler fleeing has been heightened since he has reportedly avoided cooperating in the investigation of the accident that killed Undersecretary Nestor Ponce.

Ponce was killed when the Toyota Prado with license plate 23370 and driven by Ivler reportedly leapt over the center island on the C5-Ortigas flyover and rammed the victim's Isuzu Trooper.

Ponce's wife, Evangeline, who was sitting beside him, was only slightly hurt, her brother Ed Ladores had told the INQUIRER.

After the incident, Ivler was confined at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center in Muntinlupa City.

Since he had not given any statements on the incident, the police placed 24-hour guards at the hospital but Ivler managed to slip by them Tuesday.

The Asian Hospital confirmed on Thursday that Ivler was discharged Aug. 10.

Catungal disclosed that a warrant for Ivler's arrest was forthcoming since charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide, physical injuries, and damage to property have been filed against him.

"I believe that Ponce's lawyers are working on something to prevent Ivler from leaving the country. But what exactly, I do not know," Catungal said.

The mother of Ivler has been insisting that he is innocent and that he was being unduly being treated like a criminal.

The INQUIRER called up Marlene yesterday to seek her comment regarding fears that Ivler might flee but her cellular phone just kept on ringing.

Meanwhile, the Department of Foreign Affairs contradicted claims of Ivler's family that he enjoyed diplomatic immunity just because he was the stepson of an Asian Development Bank official.

With a report from Tina Santos

Caloocan, Malabon land dispute looms

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE CALOOCAN City government is reviving its claim over a 37-hectare piece of property in Libis Baesa that neighboring Malabon City residents claim belongs to them.

The motion, filed before a regional trial court, seeks to intervene in an earlier petition filed by affected residents and barangay officials.

Caloocan Councilor Henry Cammayo, barangay officials and residents had earlier filed a petition for declaratory relief to stop Malabon officials from claiming jurisdiction over the area that covers parts of Barangays 160 and 161.

The petition is still pending, but the court had approved their motion for a preliminary injunction. This means the contested area still falls under Caloocan's jurisdiction while the case is ongoing, Cammayo added.

But Malabon City legal officer Danilo Diaz said the Caloocan City government, now under mayor Enrico Echiverri, should not have filed the motion.

Diaz said the city government, then under Rey Malonzo, had already filed a separate petition that was later dismissed by the court.

The row over Libis Baesa began in 2001 when Malabon was declared a city.

Citing Republic Act 9019, which turned their municipality into a city, Malabon officials said the contested area was within their boundary.

But Caloocan officials and some residents said the area had been under their city's jurisdiction for the longest time.

At the height of the dispute, both city governments were collecting taxes, leaving residents confused.

The motion for intervention by the Caloocan government said Malabon's claim seeks to alter the boundaries of Caloocan without the consent of affected residents.

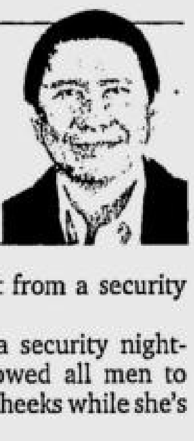
Echiverri said RA 9019 was a violation of the Constitution which states that boundaries should not be altered without the approval of the majority of affected residents.

But no plebiscite was conducted to back up Malabon's claim, Echiverri said.

'Beso-beso' a security risk to GMA

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has served a stern warning to "kissing bandits" to stop making her the receiving end of their affection.

"Please—all the men in the country—so that I don't have to be rude to you, do not attempt to kiss me," the President said during a town hall meeting in Laguna recently.

Some lecherous men are taking advantage of the "beso-beso" fad among Filipinos. "Beso-beso" entails friends greeting each other through a buss on both cheeks. It's a form of greeting in high society circles by a man to a woman, or a woman to another woman.

Except among gays, "beso-beso" is not practiced by red-blooded men. You won't catch Sen. Panfilo Lacson doing that to another man.

The President said bussing strangers did not sit well with her because (1) she considers it disrespectful, and (2) she's conservative.

I agree with the President. She was not being snooty (*mataray* in Filipino) when she said she didn't want to be kissed by strangers. I'm looking at it from a security viewpoint.

It would be a security nightmare if she allowed all men to buss her on the cheeks while she's in a crowd.

Remember that time when then first lady Imelda Marcos was attacked by a knife-wielding man while she was distributing certificates on a stage many years ago?

On that score, even women among the crowd should be barred from kissing the President. One of them could be carrying a bladed weapon or a small gun.

Let's put the President out of harm's way by not exposing her to "beso-beso" in public.

* * *

The husband of the lady who is being linked to Sen. Edgardo Angara in numerous text messages decries the smear campaign dragging his wife's name in the alleged affair.

"Pag nalaman ko kung sino ang may pakana ng text messages na yun pipilipitin ko ang kanyang leeg **(If I could identify the source of those messages, I would break his neck)," the husband told me over lunch yesterday.**

He and his wife have never been estranged, and in fact are very much in love with each other, the husband added.

The text messages came out after Angara's tiff with his colleague, Sen. Panfilo Lacson. The feud is a carry-over from the last presidential election when Angara supported actor Fernando Poe Jr. instead of Lacson.

Angara was allegedly having an affair with a prominent lady, according to the messages.

The husband asked me if I had any idea who was behind the text messages.

I said I didn't know, but I had a suspect in mind.

* * *

Fr. Edwin A. Lao, rector of the Colegio de San Juan de Letran is up in arms over business establishments in Intramuros that serve liquor to students from Letran, Lyceum, Mapua Institute of Technology, and Pamantasan ng Maynila.

Lao said he had already complained to the Intramuros Administration authorities about the business establishments, but nothing had come out of it.

"While we do not object to people earning a livelihood, we object to the selling of alcohol to our young students. It has been a daily observation that students in uniform are being served liquor as early as four o'clock in the afternoon. These bars have also become havens for smokers," the rector said in a letter to Sen. Richard Gordon.

Gordon was tourism secretary before he was elected to the Senate.

The Department of Tourism has supervision over the Intramuros Administration.

Father, if they won't listen to Sen. Gordon because he's no longer tourism secretary, try going to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

METROBRIEFS

Multitel couple falls

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has arrested two agents of Multitel International Holdings Inc., which has been tagged as a front for a pyramiding scam. Mario and Remy Mariano were nabbed on the basis of an arrest warrant issued by Judge Ricardo Rosario of the Makati Regional Trial Court. The couple has been charged with estafa and no bail was recommended for them. NBI officials said that the Marianos were known long time friends of Multitel chair Rosario Baladjay. Multitel officials have been accused of duping hundreds of investors of P20 billion. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Quizbee kicks off

THE 25TH National Super Quiz Bee, the longest running academic contest in the country, will kick off today at the World Trade Center in Pasay City with more than 80 private and public schools from Manila and Pasay joining the competition. Around 200 elementary, high school and collegiate students will be participating, said Quiz Bee Foundation vice president and spokesperson Pettizou Tayag. Today's competition from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. will be the first leg of the Metro Manila Quiz Bee division championships. It coincides with the 25th Manila International Book Fair. Division championships to be participated in by other Metro Manila schools will be on Aug. 19 at the Alabang Town Center; Sept 18 at Ali Mall in Quezon City; Oct. 2 at Robinson's Galleria; Oct. 16 at SM City Edsa in Quezon City; and Nov. 6 at Robinson's Place in Manila. The National Super Quiz Bee Grand Finals will be held on Dec. 11 at the Development Academy of the Philippines in Tagaytay City. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

Jaycees fellowship

THE MANDALUYONG Jaycees marks its 40th anniversary today with a fellowship night at the Kaban ng Hiyas inside the Mandaluyong City Hall compound. Invited to the affair are various Jaycee senators, Rep. Benhur Abalos and Mandaluyong Mayor Neptali Gonzales Jr. Jaycee senate president Flizardo "Jun" Sevilla is inviting past members to the celebration.

Pi Sigma turns 32

IN CELEBRATION of its 32nd founding anniversary, the Pi Sigma Fraternity invites all alumni and resident brods to a fellowship night to be held on Saturday, August 14, at the University Hotel (formerly PCED) inside the University of the Philippines-Diliman campus. The program will start at 6:30 p.m. The Pi Sigma Fraternity was founded by 8 young, principled men at the Molave Residence Hall in UP Diliman on August 15, 1972.

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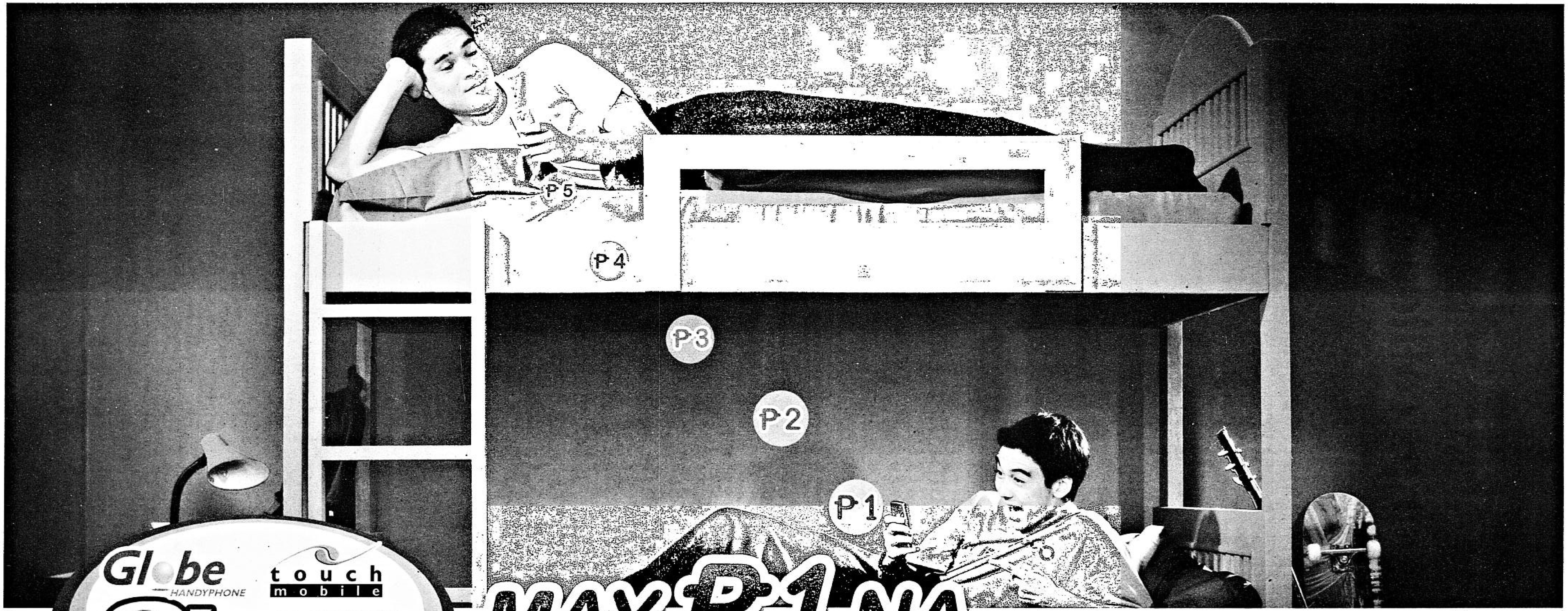

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₱60 - ₱69	7 days	30 days
₱70 - ₱79	8 days	30 days
₱80 - ₱89	9 days	30 days
₱90 - ₱99	12 days	60 days
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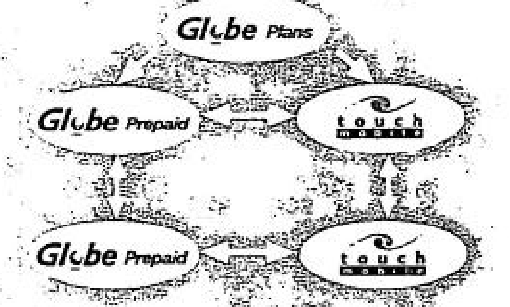

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GOLF: The PGA Championship, Day 2; 1:30 p.m. (r); Day 3, tomorrow at 2 a.m.; Sports Plus—Catch the replay of the second round then the live airing of the third round.
MOTOR SPORTS—2004 F1 Hungarian Grand Prix Qualifying; 6:55 p.m.; Star Sports; 8 p.m.; Sports Plus—See if Michael Schumacher takes pole position once more.
BASKETBALL: NBA Greatest Games—Lakers vs Mavericks, Game 4, 1984 Western Semifinals; 8 a.m. (r-12:30 a.m.); Solar Sports—Relive this LA and Dallas encounter.

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

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Camat faces Sydney silver medalist in first round

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.
News Editor

ATHENS—Just as officials had feared, middleweight Christopher Camat drew a tough opponent for his opening bout in the boxing competition of the 28th Olympic Games here.

He will fight Russian veteran Gaydarbek Gaydarbekov, the silver medalist in the Sydney Olympics, in the first round Saturday, kicking off the Filipino boxers' bid for the elusive gold medal in the Games.

The afternoon fight at the Peristeri Boxing Hall will be the Olympic debut for the 24-year-old Camat, who honed his boxing skills in the Golden Gloves competition in the United States, where his parents migrated when he was 9.

The 27-year-old Russian has been picked by Sports Illustrated as a potential bronze medalist in the middleweight division, but Camat hopes a long layoff since the Sydney Games has dulled Gaydarbekov's punches.

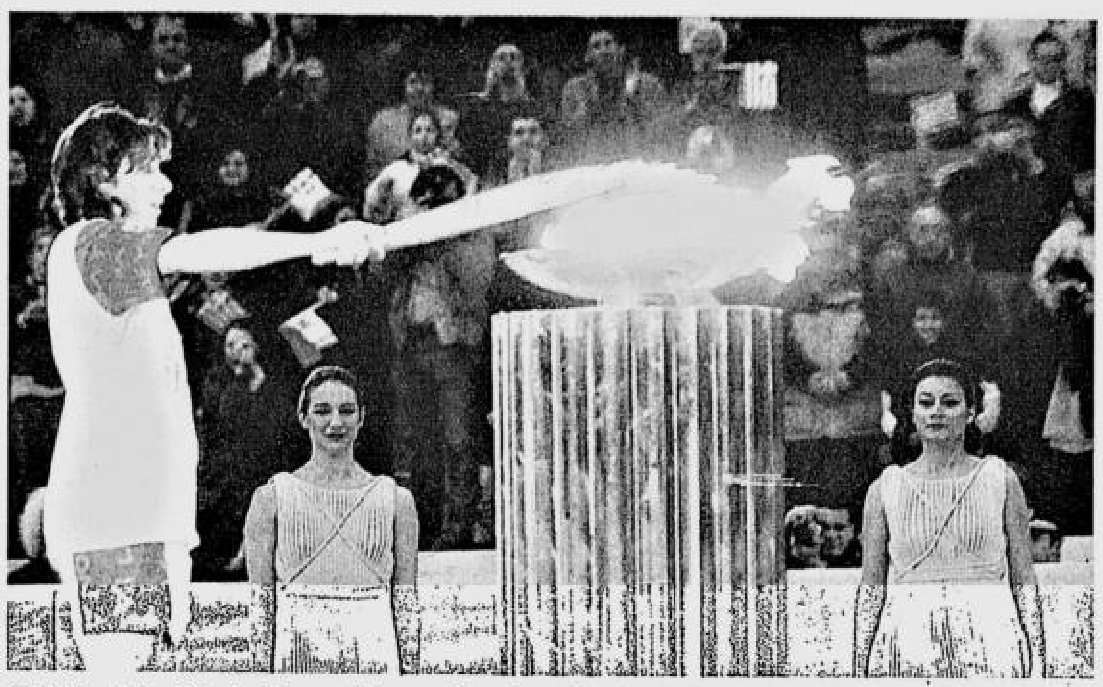
Camat and the three other Filipino boxers—flyweight Harry Tañamor, flyweight Violito Payla, and light welterweight Romeo Brin—carry the country's biggest hope for a gold medal.

Tañamor, Payla and Brin had better luck in Friday's draw.

Brin will tackle Sweden's Patrick Bogere on Sunday in the first round of the 64-kg division while Payla will meet Uzbekistan's Tulashboy Doniyorov in the first round of the 51-kg class on Tuesday.

The highly regarded Tañamor, touted as a bronze medal prospect by Sports Illustrated, will fight Sherali Dostiev of Tajikistan in the first round of the 48-kg class on Wednesday.

But if all goes according to draw, he will run into top-rated Yan Bhartelemy of Cuba in the quarterfinals.



GREEK sprinter Katerina Thanou lights an Olympic cauldron in this file photo. Thanou and Olympic champ Kostas Kenteris, who both reportedly figured in a motorcycle accident, are accused of dodging drug tests. AP

Dr. Raul Canlas, medical director of the Philippine delegation, declared all four Filipino fighters fit for their fights and well within the weight limits.

Boxing coach Nolito Velasco had hoped for an easier draw, especially for Camat, but he said the four Filipinos are ready for action and are focused on their fights.

"No pressure at all," Velasco said. "They're all focused. No more distractions."

He admitted the field is tough in all divisions.

"They're the best of the continents and that's why they qualified for the Olympics," Velasco said. "And we know most of them and they're all good."

ATHENS 2004 SCHEDULES

ATHENS 2004

Aug. 14	
Aquatics (Olympic Aquatic Center)	
10:00-13:00	
Miguel S. Molina	400-m IM-Heats
Juan Miguel T. Mendoza	400 Freestyle-Heats
Raphael Chua	100-m Breastroke
19:00-20:51	
400-m IM; 400-m Freestyle	Finals
100-m Breastroke	Semis
Boxing (Persiteri Olympic Boxing Hall)	
19:30-22:45	
Christopher Camat	Middle Weight 75 kg-Preliminaries
Aug. 15	
Aquatics (Olympic Aquatic Center)	
10:00-13:14	
Miguel S. Molina	200-m Freestyle-Heats
Jaclyn H. Pangilinan	100-m Breastroke-Heats
19:00-21:02	
200-m Freestyle	Semifinals
100-m (womens) Breastroke	Semifinals
100-m Breastroke	Finals
Boxing (Persiteri Olympic Boxing Hall)	
13:00-16:30	
19:30-22:30	
Romeo Brin	Light welterweight 64-kg Preliminaries
Archery (Panathinaiko Stadium)	
08:30-12:00	
Individual 1/32 eliminations	
Shooting Markopoulo Olympic Shooting Center)	
09:00-14:45	
Jethro Dionisio	Trap-Qualifications/Finals

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World-class swimmer may join RP team

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

COUGHLIN

ATHENS—If negotiations do not miscarry, the Philippines might have an "explosive" performer in next year's Southeast Asian Games and the Doha (Qatar) Asian Games in 2006.

The prized athlete is Nathalie Coughlin, world record-holder in the 100-meter backstroke who has an American father and a Filipino mother.

"There are still some points of discussion, but I think we have a good chance of getting her to swim in the SEAG and Asian Games," said Pasa secretary general Chito Rivera, who is also responsible for the addition of 18-year-old Fil-American Jaclyn Pangilinan to the RP swimming team here.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit said he had talked to the US Olympic Committee and "there seems to be no problem."

If Coughlin accepts the invitation, Rivera says "she could win four gold medals" for RP in the Asian Games." Coughlin has expressed interest in swimming for the Philippines. However, she'd leave the decision to her parents.

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FFCCCII GOLDEN JUBILEE CUP
FILIPINO-CHINESE LADIES INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
地 點：WEST COURSE, WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, MANDALUYONG　日 期：AUGUST 14, 2004, 6:00 A.M. T. OFF

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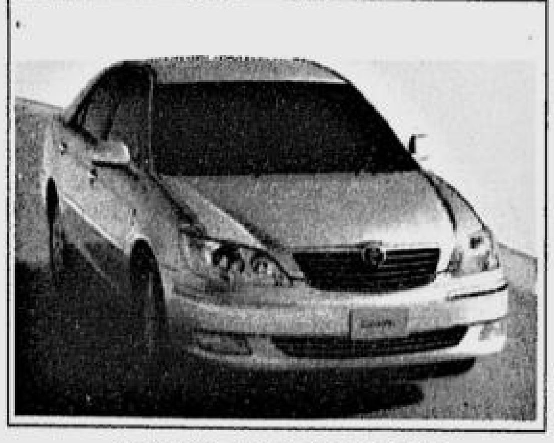
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STANDINGS	W	L
Letran	7	3
SSC	7	3
Perpetual	6	4
Mapua	5	5
PCU	5	4
San Beda	5	4
JRU	3	6
St. Benilde	0	9

GAMES MONDAY
(*Makati Coliseum*)
9:30 a.m.—PCU vs St. Benilde (Jrs)
11:15 a.m.—San Beda vs JRU (Jrs)
1 p.m.—PCU vs St. Benilde (Srs)
3 p.m.—San Beda vs JRU (Srs)

Knights crush Altas, stay on top with Stags

By Jasmine W. Payo

LETRAN'S small men did the big job as the Knights knocked the University of Perpetual Altas out of the lead with an 84-70 decision yesterday in the 80th NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

Playmaker Boyet Bautista shot 16 of his 20 points in the first half as the defending champion Knights took a 45-34 lead before Letran repulsed repeated Perpetual Help rallies behind captain Ronjay Enrile.

In the other senior match, Leo Najorda's superb performance lifted San Sebastian past Mapua, 72-67, and into a share of top spot with Letran.

Najorda, the reigning MVP, fired 23 points and grabbed 16 rebounds.

Letran and San Sebastian stayed in front with 7-3 slates, while Perpetual slipped to second at 6-4. Mapua, 5-5, dropped to fourth.

Vladymir Joe and Noy Javier pushed Perpetual Help within two, 54-52, midway in the third quarter, but Enrile took over, firing seven in a 10-6 Letran comeback for 64-58.

An Enrile triple early in the fourth quarter restored Letran's double-digit advantage, 71-60.

After a 56-56 deadlock early in the fourth period, the Stags charged ahead in the last three minutes, 67-60. The Cardinals threatened at 71-67 with 23 seconds remaining but Jofferson Gonzales missed two three-point attempts in the dying seconds.

The Staglets overwhelmed the Robins, 70-51, for their fifth win in ten junior games.

The scores:

First Game (Jrs)

SSC 70—Salamat 18, Galang 10, Gonzales 10, Juan 7, Maderal 5, Subia 5, Balila 4, Del Rio 3, Morales 2, R. Reyes 2, Estacio 2, P. Reyes 2, Nasayao 0, Lopez 0, Macasaet 0.

MAPUA 51—Claravall 17, Facundo 13, Abangan 7, Fouadkhalil 7, Obra 2, Ramos 2, Parcon 2, Faundo 1.

Quarters: 13-18, 40-21, 61-35, 70-51.

Second Game (Srs)

SSC 72—Najorda 23, Vicente 20, Uy 9, Maneclang 6, Baluyot 4, Gonzales 3, Moore 3, Aguilar 2, Rebuya 2.

MAPUA 67—Sta. Maria 14, Veranga 11, Migraso 8, Gonzales 5, Malgapo 5, Tiongco 5, Sumalinog 5, Del Rosario 4, Guevarra 4, Salud 3, Gorospe 2, Pascual 1.

Quarters: 21-15, 38-34, 52-48, 72-67.

Third Game (Srs)

LETRAN 84—Bautista 20, Enrile 16, Aban 15, Andaya 14, Alcaraz 5, Aldave 4, Mondragon 4, Rodriguez 2, Realista 2, Anabo 2.

PERPETUAL 70—Joe 19, Barnson 19, Javier 17, Refuerzo 4, Bauzon 4, Santos 3, Misa 2, Apor 1, Cuenco 1.

Quarters: 21-18, 45-34, 64-58, 84-70.

A decent swim main goal of Filipino pool hopefuls

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.

ERIK Vendt (left) and Michael Phelps of the US during a practice session at the Olympic Aquatic Center. Filipino Miguel Molina will swim against Phelps in today's 400-m IM preliminaries. AP

ATHENS—Three Filipinos plunge into action in the swimming competition of the 28th Olympic Games here Saturday with high hopes for a decent performance and not much else against the likes of Michael Phelps and Ian Thorpe.

Winning a medal is out of the question for Miguel Molina, Juan Miguel Mendoza and Raphael Chua when they take to the pool at the Olympic Aquatic Center at the main Olympic complex here.

The three Filipinos could hope for no better than a new Philippine record, a personal best or a place in the next round of the swimming eliminations. Or rub elbows and share the same pool with the best of the swimming world.

Molina is entered in the 400-meter individual medley, Mendoza in the 400 freestyle and Chua in the 100 breaststroke.

Molina, a 20-year-old student at the University of California-Berkeley, opted to skip Friday's opening ceremonies, which was expected to last well past midnight (5 a.m. in Manila), to concentrate on his event.

Mendoza, on the other hand, will be treating his swim on Saturday as a warm-up lap for his favorite event, the 1500 free on Aug. 20.

"I don't expect much from my 400 free because it's not my event," said Mendoza. "I've been focusing on the 1500 free where I hope to do better."

At 22, Mendoza is the veteran in the team and the only one with previous Olympic experience (Sydney, 2000). He is a management information systems student at the University of Georgia.

The 21-year-old Chua, too, has modest targets. He will be seeking only to improve his personal best of 1:04.93 in the 100 breaststroke, "and if I achieve it, I'll be OK with that."

He will also be aiming to break the Philippine record of 1:04.18 set by now Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, which is well within his grasp.

The miracle the Filipino swimmers need to win a medal is for the top finishers to be disqualified for doping.

That is not likely to happen to Americans Phelps and Brendan Hansen and Australian star Thorpe, who hold the world records and are the top favorites in the three events the Filipinos are entered.

Phelps, who hopes to break the record of Mark Spitz of seven gold medals in one Olympics, holds the world record of 4:08.41 seconds, at least 14 seconds better than the Olympic qualifying time of Molina.

The Filipino clocked 4:23.26 last December in the Southeast Asian Games in Hanoi.

Thorpe, the Australian sensation nicknamed "Thorpedo," is fastest in the world in the 400 freestyle with a record of 3:40.08, way ahead of Mendoza's Olympic qualifying time of 4:03.54 and his personal best of 3:59.07.

And Hansen has a world record of 59.30 and will hardly be threatened by Chua's personal best of 1:04.93.

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Formula for Olympic success

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WE now have the Olympic fever because the 28th Olympiad has just opened in Athens. The Olympic Games will not end until Aug. 29 and, thanks to Dream Satellite's massive coverage, we'd all be watching the world's most spectacular sporting event blow by blow—not to mention NBN zeroing in on our 16 bets during the 16-day Games.

Seems like only yesterday when I was in Sydney covering the Olympics in 2000. How time flies, really.

Anyway, some of you may have questions as to how one can become an Olympian. It's a tall order, but if you have patience, and some luck, there could yet be an Olympian in your family.

It wouldn't be you, for sure, as I'm certain you are past your Olympic age. However, if you read on, you could become party to an Olympic dream.

And so, listen up.

If your child is below 10 years old and has started showing interest in sports, say tennis or golf, running or swimming, basketball or boxing, or any discipline for that matter, you have basically three options to choose from.

One, ignore it. By this, I mean just let the child pursue his/her interest—without you by his/her side.

Two, support it. By this, I mean spare him/her some money, if not time, if only to prove that you and your child are family.

Three, encourage it. By this, I mean you need to support your child's interest all the way. No ifs and buts.

If you ignore his/her interest in sports, that means you don't like him/her to be into sports. I guess that's a cruel option but for you to do that, there must be a reason. Like, say, you don't want your child to get seriously ill, or you want him/her spared of the punishment his/her sport demands. A sickly kid is almost forbidden to indulge in sports; one afflicted with weak lungs, or who suffers from a heart condition, is barred from strenuous activities.

One sport that really punishes us is chess—mentally, that is. Some parents abhor chess because the sport tends to subject the kid to hours of mental activity; it is so tiring because it makes you sit for hours either playing the game or studying moves by the masters. Chess isn't just pushing the figurines. More of it, in fact, is spent on studying Morphy, Capablanca, Alekhine, Tal, Petrosyan, Fischer, Kasparov, etc.

I had an uncle who spent nights playing chess by his lonesome; he always had an imaginary opponent. Sometimes he'd make himself the winner, at times he'd make his "opponent" the winner.

He had theatrics all the time.

When he won, he'd be laughing like a hyena.

When his "opponent" won, he'd fling the queen to the wall.

He was a consummate player, he'd fall asleep in his chair in the wee hours of the morning. I should know; I had seen him still playing the game at three in the morning when I'd take my customary leak at dawn.

Tio Ninoy, the most famous cook in the land of my birth, is long dead, but his chess exploits are permanently etched in my mind. Good thing his only son, Zoilo, didn't take after him. I guess *Tio* Ninoy did not want Zoilo to suffer the same pain he had while being a chess buff. You adopt chess as your sport, you end up the game's prisoner for life.

The second option, which is to support your child's sport, is fine with me. You need not be a full-time supporter in that you don't need to be by his/her side all the time. Treat it as a normal thing. Part of the growing-up process. If he/she should excel in it, fine. If, by a dint of luck, he/she goes all the way to the Olympics, thank the gods. Go to Quiapo and thank the Nazareno.

It's the third option that takes the cake.

If you encourage your child to pursue the sport he/she has chosen, you should go all the way. If you need to quit your job, do it. You stick to your child like a leech, why that's usually the best formula for one to make it to the Olympics.

But then, how many among us can afford not to work just to make *tutok* to our child wanting to pursue the Olympic dream?

Gosh, the rich don't dream of Olympic stints because a life of ease is the best deterrent to sporting success.

So, the point is, like Valentin Dakuykoy, you can't really encourage your child to pursue his/her sporting dream because, unless your family name is Cojuangco, Zobel or Ayala, you can't go all the way—as in leaving your job and going full-time looking after your child's dream of greatness.

Show me an Olympic boxer who is a millionaire's son and I'll go to Quiapo every Friday the rest of my life.

***

FASTBREAK. This day in 1966, the Beatles concert was held up for 30 minutes when—during the fourth song, "Day Tripper"—2,500 of the 20,000 fans invaded the Cleveland Indians' baseball field (Cleveland Stadium, West 3rd St., Cleveland, Ohio, USA). The Beatles left Cleveland the following day for another concert in Washington DC.

TRO stops golf qualifying tilt

By Musong R. Castillo

THIS time, the Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines is up in arms against its president and two other officials for holding a tournament for pro aspirants without the knowledge of the board.

The 72-hole tournament being held at the Bogo Mercedez Golf and Country Club in Cebu City was ordered stopped yesterday through a temporary restraining order issued by Judge Enrico A. Lanzanas of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 7.

Acting on the petition of Melecio Gico, administrative assistant of the PGAP board, Lanzanas ordered PGAP president Romulo Negrido and board members Willy de Tomas and Vic Santia to stop the qualifying tournament featuring five South Koreans and seven Cebuanos.

A copy of the TRO was furnished the INQUIRER yesterday.

Gico acted in behalf of Tony Arevalo, PGAP treasurer, and five other board members, who learned of the unauthorized tournament only the other day.

"We want to resolve the problems of the association first before anything else," Arevalo said in Filipino. "Everyone knows that the finances of the PGAP is in a mess at this time, and here is a qualifying tournament being held without the knowledge of the board."

Negrido, already under fire for allegedly mishandling PGAP funds, has refused to reply to text messages of the INQUIRER.

Officials said the five Koreans paid an entry fee of $500 each and the seven Cebuanos were charged a total of P35,000 for the right to play in the qualifying tournament, which was stopped after two rounds.

Subplots stir interest in PBA All-Star battle

By June Navarro

CEBU CITY—Hometown hero Dondon Hontiveros will stop at nothing to prevent Vergel Meneses from snaring a fifth PBA All-Star MVP award.

On the other side of the floor, Asi Taulava aims to snap a three-year losing slide in the annual game featuring the best players in the league.

These subplots add up to the excitement when the North and South teams clash in the PBA All-Star game tomorrow at the Cebu City Coliseum here.

"I only have a single objective in mind and that is to stop Vergel (Meneses) from getting that fifth All-Star MVP," said San Miguel Beer's Hontiveros, who will see action for the South team in front of his provincemates.

Meneses of FedEx owns the most number of MVP awards (1995, 1998, 2000 and 2003) in the years when the first All-Star game was played in 1989.

This year, Meneses is seeking to cement his place in the All-Star books but downplays his chances of winning the award for the fifth time.

"I'll play my usual game and give the Cebuanos their money's worth," said Meneses.

Capturing the accolade again, however, will not be a stroll in the park for the 15-year veteran.

Meneses' North selection, composed of, among others, Barangay Ginebra's Romel Adducul, rookie Paul Artadi of Purefoods, San Miguel's Olsen Racela and rookie Rich Alvarez of Shell, will have to put up with a crowd expected to go all-out for the South squad.

The North stars will also be ranged against a powerhouse South cast led by Taulava of Talk 'N Text and Ginebra's Eric Menk. The South also boasts of snipers Kenneth Duremdes of Sta. Lucia Realty and James Yap of Purefoods and ace playmaker Jimmy Alapag of Talk 'N Text.

"I hope to break my losing streak against Olsen (Racela)," said Taulava, who has never won an All-Star game with Racela on the opposite team.

The reigning 2003 MVP has lost all of his three previous stints in the All-Star while Racela has gone 5-0.

Today's side events will see Alapag defending his crown in the three-point shoot-out at the Mandaue Sports Center.

The top four finishers in the shoot-out will challenge former PBA shooters Allan Caidic, Elmer Cabahug, Al Solis and Roel Gomez in the Legends Shootout Challenge.

AR WEEK
LUC
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COACH Joel Banal (left) of the South Selection shakes hands with his North counterpart, Yeng Guiao, during the launch of tomorrow's PBA All-Star game at the Cebu Coliseum. With them are Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña and commissioner Noli Eala. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Cebu Milo run expects big turnout

CEBU CITY—The Queen City of the South is expected to deliver the most number of runners during the Central Visayas regional eliminations of the 28th National Milo Marathon tomorrow.

More than 18,000 entries have already signed up, making it the biggest regional run in the history of this annual foot race.

Local organizer Ricky Ballesteros, also the general manager of the Cebu City Sports Center and executive director of the Sinulog Foundation, said most of the participants are entered in the 5-K fun run and the 3-K kiddie run.

Cebu City Mayor Tommy Osmeña will fire the starting gun promptly at 6 a.m. to set off the regional run of the country's premiere running event held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel Manila, Cebu Pacific, Adidas, Globe HandyPhone, and the Department of Tourism.

The centerpiece event is the 21-K elimination run which also attracted a season-high 200 runners, including some 20 touring runners from Metro Manila, Olongapo City and Baguio City. The top three finishers in the men's and women's divisions will clinch slots in the 42-K National Finals slated Nov. 14 in Metro Manila.

Sunday's race is expected to be a festive affair with live bands and big-screen entertainment set up at the start and finish area.

At stake are cash prizes totaling P144,600 as well as trophies and medals.

Boven Montecillo and Christy Sevilleno are expected to defend their respective regional titles on Sunday.

Milo Sports executive Pat Goc Ong and Milo Marathon national race organizer Rudy Biscocho will supervise the event and later award the prizes.

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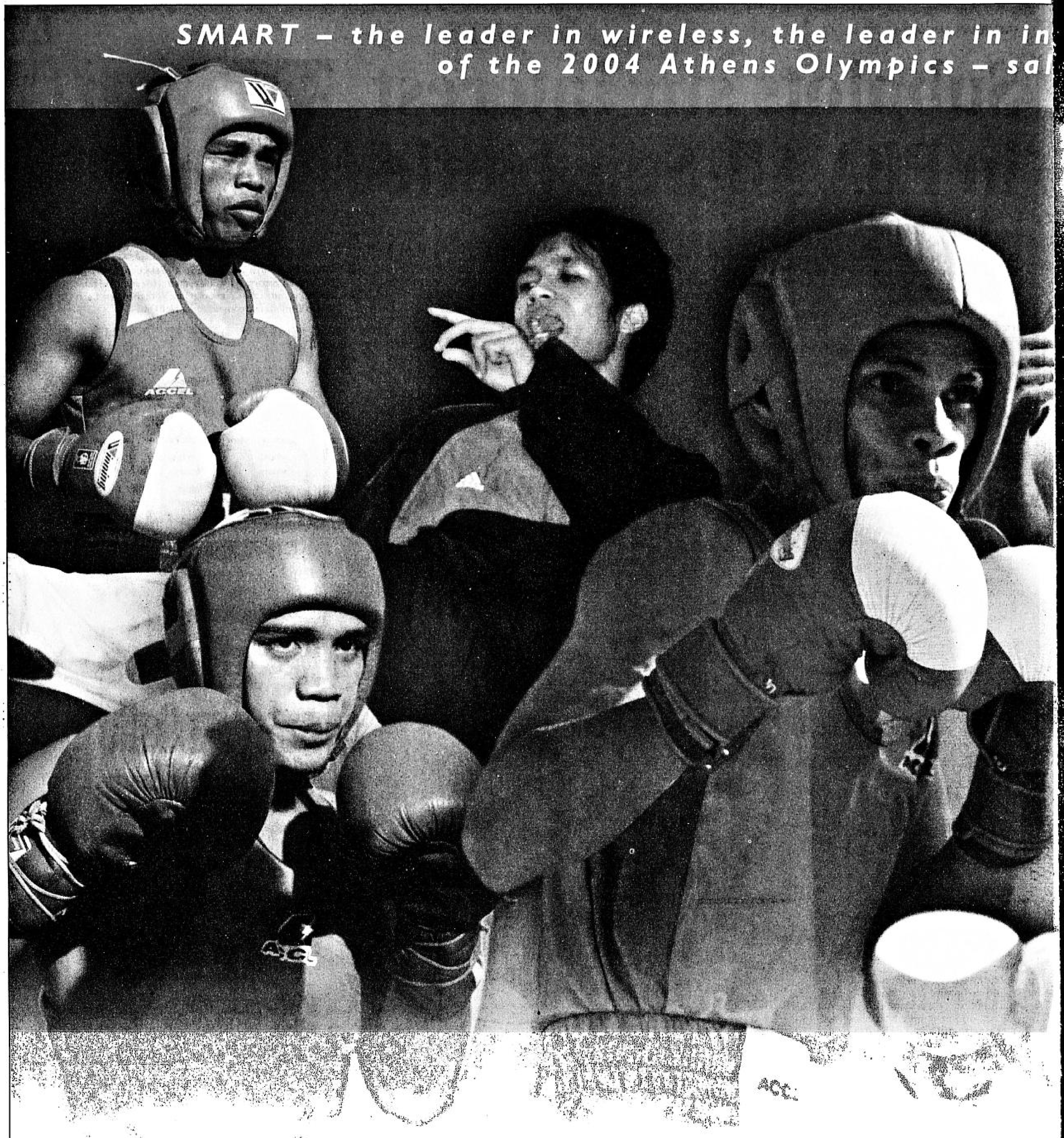
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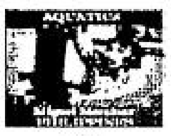
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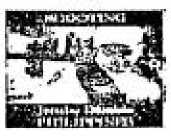
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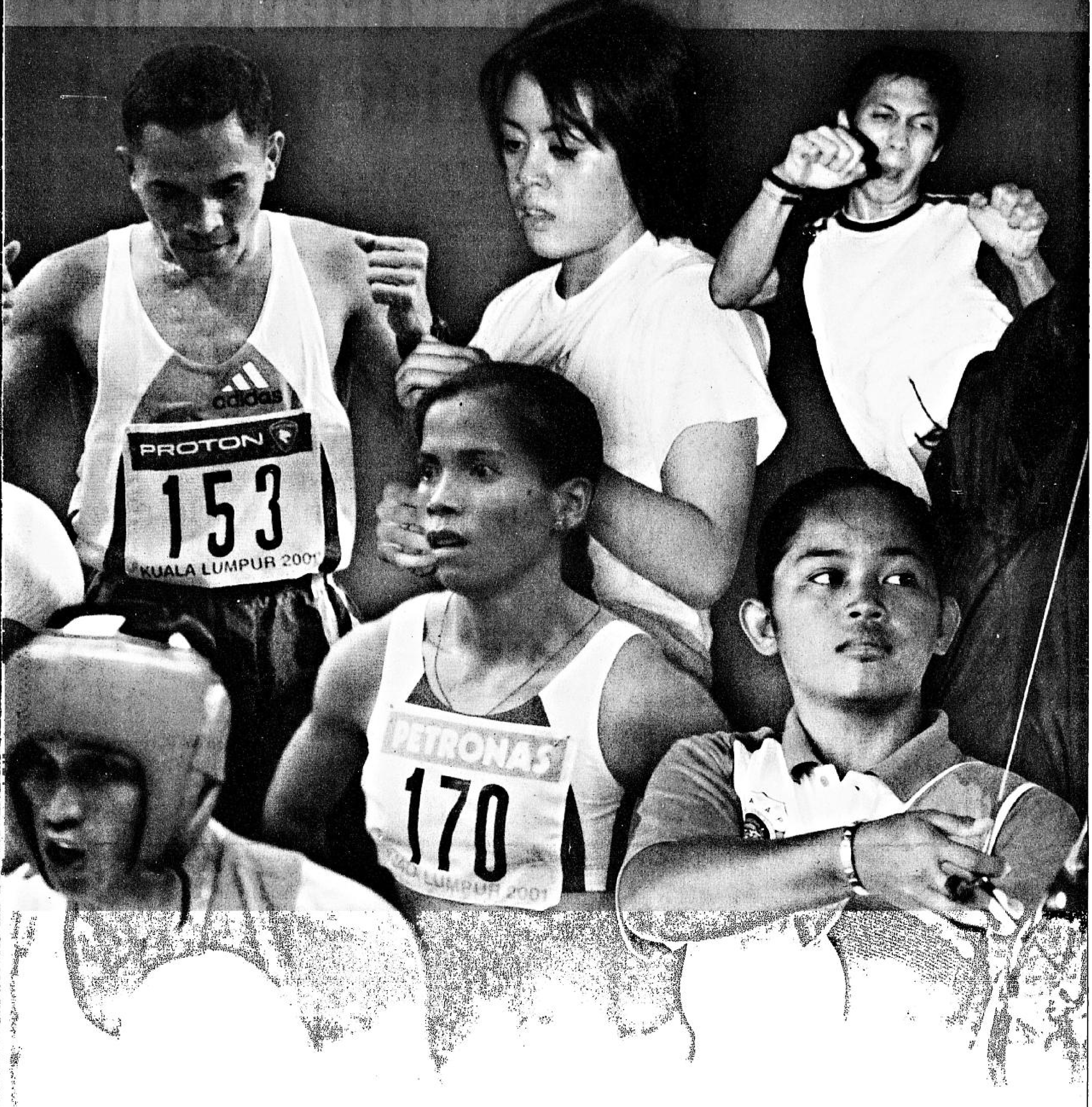

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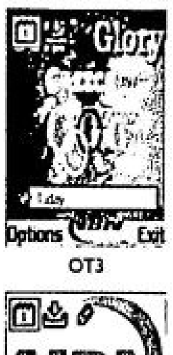
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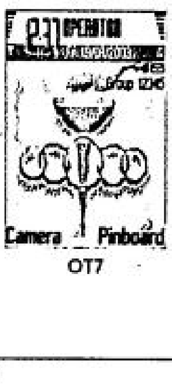
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THE WORLD'S GREATEST	R. KELLY	OMT2
HOPE	SHAGGY	OMT3
DON'T GIVE UP	CHICANE	OMT4
WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS	QUEEN	OMT5
MY HEART WILL GO ON	CELINE DION	OMT6

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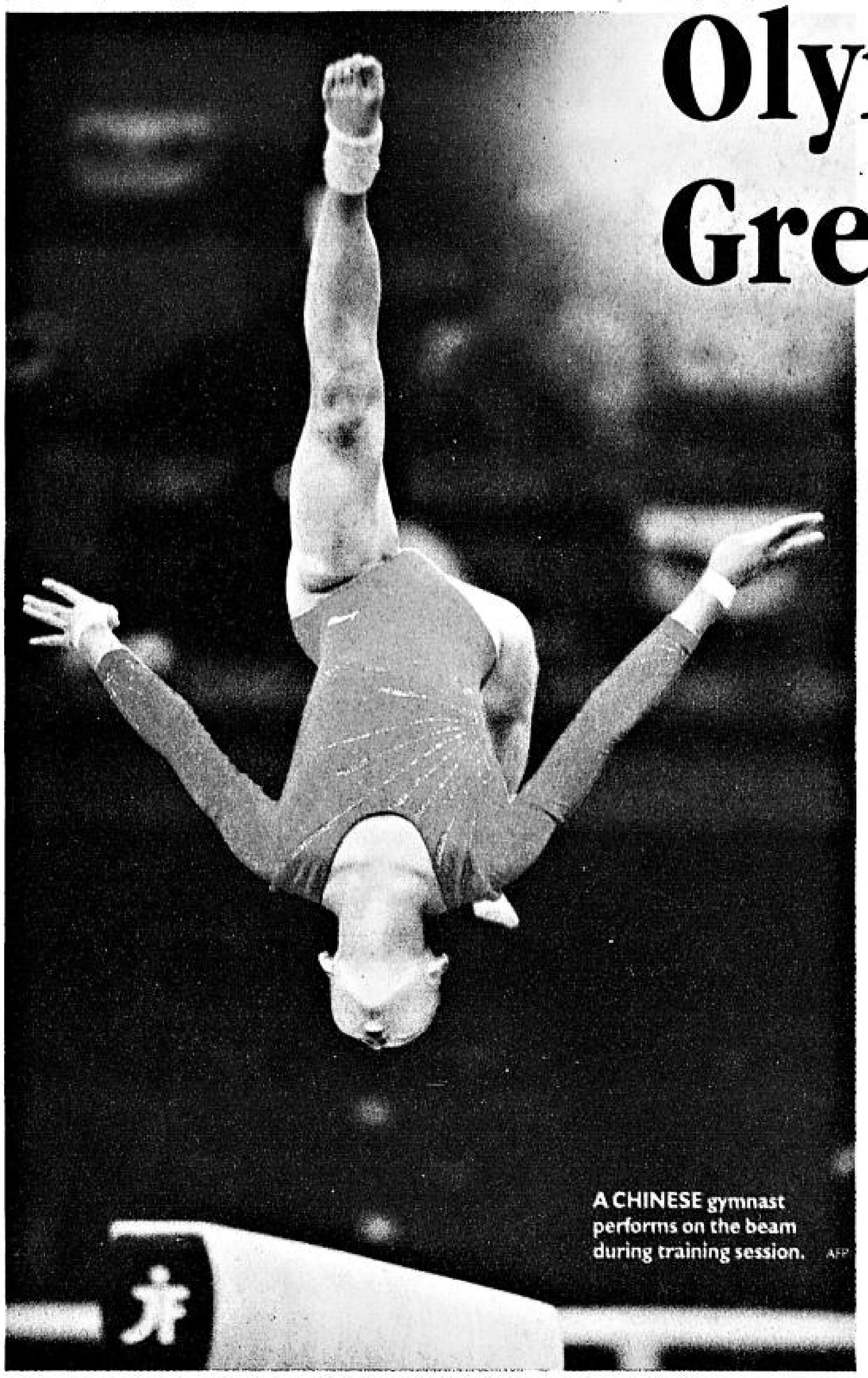


A CHINESE gymnast performs on the beam during training session. AFP

Olympic curtains up; Greek pride bruised

ATHENS—The curtain rises on the Athens Olympics on Friday but Greek pride was overwhelmed with embarrassment after their two most famous athletes faced expulsion from the Games over drugs.

Gold medal hero Costas Kenteris, the man tipped to light the Olympic flame in the opening ceremony, and fellow sprinting medalist Katerina Thanou were injured in a motorcycle crash shortly after missing drug tests.

The pair, who could face a two-year ban, were visited in hospital by Olympic officials who ordered them to appear at a disciplinary hearing on Friday afternoon just hours before the start of the Games.

"There will be an announcement from the hospital shortly as to whether their health will permit them to attend," said Manolis Kolimbadis of the Greek Olympic team.

"At this moment it is too early to say (if they'll compete).

They have splinters in their arms and serious bruising on their legs. But they are in good health, they don't have any serious problems," he added.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) was left in a state of confusion by the bewildering sequence of events.

One IOC member, requesting anonymity, told Reuters: "There is a great deal of confusion. We know there was an accident last night but people are wondering what actually happened. There is suspicion and confusion and disappointment. We don't know what to believe. A shadow has been cast over the whole thing." The news hit Greece like a thunderbolt from the gods.

People burst into tears on hearing what happened as Greece was all set to take center stage with the launch of Athens 2004 before a television audience of billions around the world.

To some, it looked like hubris to the fiercely proud Greeks.

"Everyone was talking about how great it all is, how beautiful the city and the stadiums are and of course now this happens. It's like they've put a curse on us," said IT technician Manolis Kalatzis.

Morning television and radio shows discussed nothing but the overnight drama in tones ranging from the sympathetic to the paranoid.

Newspaper Ethnos called to the athletes on its front page to "Tell Us the Truth—you owe it to all Greeks to prove you are clean."

Kenteris, the only man to win the Olympic, world and European 200 meter titles, is a national hero in Greece but doping rumors, due in part to his rare appearances, have constantly dogged the sprinter known as "Greece Lightning." *Reuters*

Korean archers rip 3 world marks

ATHENS—South Korea's Im Dong-hyun set a new world record for the men's 72-arrow with a score of 687 on the opening day of the Olympics archery competition on Thursday.

Im set the new mark in finishing first in the ranking round of the competition, bettering by two the previous joint bests set by compatriots Oh Kyo Moon in 1996 and Shim Young Sung in 1995.

The ranking round determines the seedings for both the men's individual and team elimination rounds.

It was the third world record for the day for the dominant South Korean teams following two new bests in the women's equivalent competition earlier in the day.

Park Sung-Hyun set a new record mark for the women's 72 Arrow in the Ranking Round, scoring 682 points to beat the previous best mark set by Natalia Valeeva of Italy earlier this year, by just three points.

The Korean women also finished first, second and third and their combined score smashing the previous team world record that was set by their compatriots at the Sydney Games.

The combined 216 arrow score of Park, Lee Sung-Jin and Yun Mi-Jin was 2030, 36 points higher than their compatriots had managed four years ago. *AFP*

Clarke grabs early PGA lead; Woods in peril of missing cut

KOHLER, Wisconsin—Playing on an Irish-style links that suits his game, Northern Ireland's Darren Clarke fired an opening round 65 for a one-shot lead at the $6.25 million PGA Championship on Thursday.

Clarke got off to a superb start with four straight birdies and has a one-shot lead over playing partner Justin Leonard and South Africa's Ernie Els.

"I rolled the ball well on the greens today so I am very pleased with a 65," Clarke said.

Eight-time major winner Tiger Woods birdied his first hole but will have to improve if he plans on ending his drought in the last nine majors. Woods struggled to a three-over 75 and is 10 strokes back of Clarke.

"I am disappointed. If I had putted normal I would have shot under par and I didn't do that," Woods said.

Vijay Singh (67) is tied for third with three others, England's Luke Donald, Scott Verplank and Briny Baird.

Woods' playing partners, that also included John Daly and this year's money leader Singh, were supposed to be crowd favorites. But it was Clarke's threesome that provided fireworks.

South Korean K.J. Choi, the third member of Clarke's group, opened with five consecutive birdies en route to a four-under 68. Choi is one of a pack of nine players who are three shots behind Clarke.

Clarke, who missed the cut at the PGA Championship last year, is trying to become the first European to win this event since it switched from the match play format in 1958.

Clarke looked more comfortable than most at Whistling Straits, which has earned the nickname Bering Strait earlier in the week because of high winds and unseasonably cool temperatures,

Scotland's Colin Montgomerie said Whistling Straits feels more like home than the typical American-style course. Montgomerie is eight shots back after shooting a 73. *AFP*

CLARKE: Four-birdie start

SPORTSWATCH

Hawks 2 wins shy of Naascu sweep

SIX down, two to go for defending champion University of Manila. UM demolished Holy Angel University (Pampanga), 95-67, to move within two wins of completing an eight-game sweep of the first round of the eliminations in the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) basketball tournament at the UM gym. Led by the Bicolano duo of Ryan Regalado and Jovit Gomez, the Hawks outscored the Flyers right from the start en route to their sixth straight win in the nine-team, double-round tournament. Overall, the win was the 59th in a row for the Hawks since the league's inception in 2001. Regalado topscored with 21 points, while Gomez added 18 points for UM, which needs only to win over University of Makati and Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay to complete a sweep. St. Clare College (Caloocan) shocked University of Makati, 108-98, to grab solo second place with its fifth win in seven matches. New Era University humbled AMA Computer University, 81-72, to improve to 4-3.

PSBA volleybelles remain unbeaten

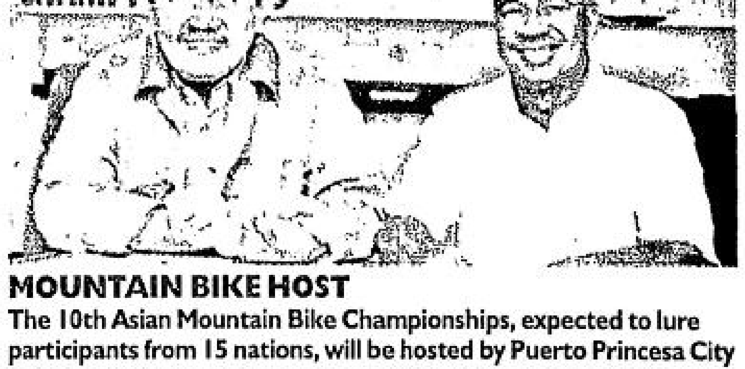
PHILIPPINE School of Business Administration overcame the absence of top setter Gamela Septo in pulling off a thrilling 25-23, 26-24, 25-15 win over De La Salle yesterday to remain unbeaten in the 3rd Universities and Colleges Athletics Association (UCAA) women's volleyball tournament at the EAC Sports Center. Septo sprained her right ankle in the early goings, but that failed to dampen the Lady Jaguars' spirits. The win was the third straight in as many games for the Lady Jaguars, who shared the lead with La Salle-Dasmariñas. La Salle-Manila dropped to 2-1. In the men's division, defending champion St. Francis of Assisi made a short work of La Salle-Manila, 25-13, 25-14, 25-14, in just 49 minutes of play to book its second straight win. La Salle-Dasmariñas defeated Olivarez College, 25-20, 25-16, 25-20, in 64 minutes.

7-stag derby gets lift from Thunderbird

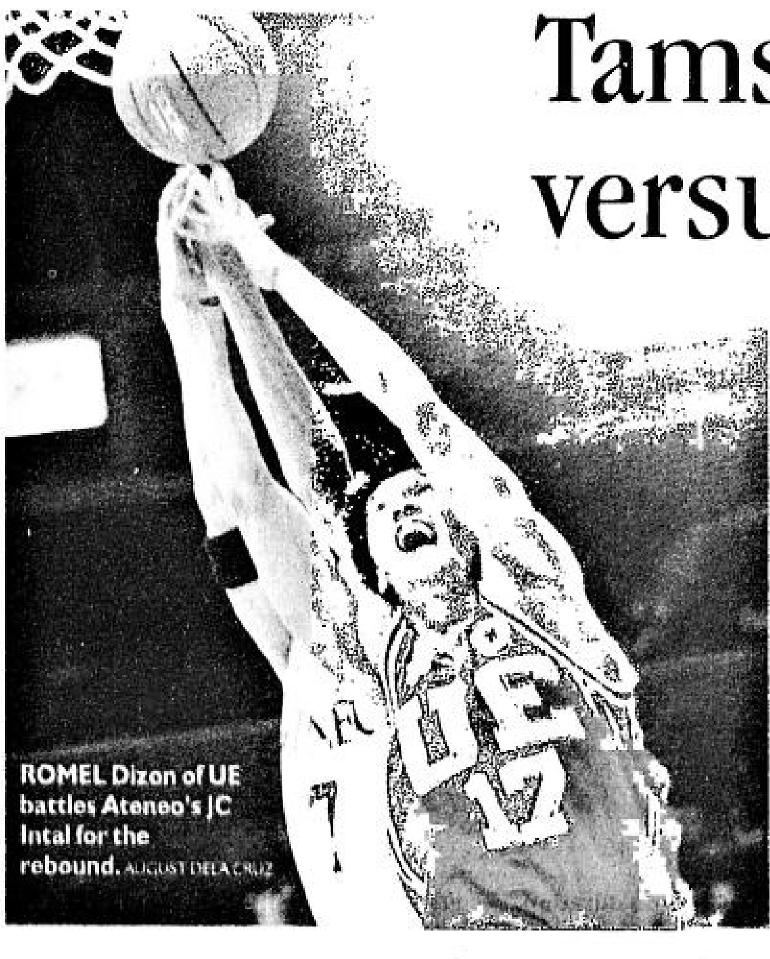
DANNY Ty & lawyer Romero Yu's 18th Annual RAY-Showdown 7-Stag Derby got a boost from Thunderbird Power Feeds—makers of Thunderbird Multi-Grain Concentrate—after Product Manager Dante Nacar agreed to support the event, which will be held at the Roligon Mega Cockpit on Sept. 4, 6 and 8. The monthlong screening of stags kicked off in Laguna last Aug. 4 with Mimi Itchon and Negros Gamefowl Breeders Association president Juancho Aguirre tasked with the screening and banding of stags. The screening team is still combing San Pablo City, where hundreds of game farms are nested including those of Sonny Lagon, Patrick Puno, Pol Estrellado, Blandy Tolentino, Manny Santos, Pete Rodriguez, lawyer Jun Mendoza and Boy Marzo. A P1 million prize purse is up for grabs for an entry fee of P18,000 and a minimum bet of P7,700. For screening appointments, call tels. 833-2275/833-1638 or cell 0920-3074225.

Roligon hosts Pare Ko-Mare Ko cockfest

METRO Manila derby circuits' elite converge at the Roligon Mega Cockpit tonight as top llamador Shio & derby-regular Flower host the Pare Ko-Mare Ko sa Roligon Derby tonight. World Slasher champion lawyer Rudy Salud and Makati Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado lead the entries that include William Co, Ruel Ricafort, Atty. Ed Santos, Pol Estrellado, Dicky Lim, Dennis Roldan, Dong Lacson, Maj. Bobby Doromal, Eric de la Rosa and Danny Ty. A total of 88 matches are on tap, with the first fight set at 5 p.m. Sponsored by Thunderbird Bexan XP and Casino Filipino, this event is promoted by Roligon Mega Promotions. Meanwhile, Roligon will cap the 2004 cocking season with the staging of Cash Premyo IV 3-cock Derby on August 30.



MOUNTAIN BIKE HOST
The 10th Asian Mountain Bike Championships, expected to lure participants from 15 nations, will be hosted by Puerto Princesa City in October. Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn (left) and PhilCycling president Bert Lina signed on Thursday the memorandum of agreement for the Asian MTB, which serves as the culminating event of the first ever Philippine Cycling Festival set on Oct. 2-10.



ROMEL Dizon of UE battles Ateneo's JC Intal for the rebound. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Tams seek revenge versus Archers today

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
11:30 a.m.—Adamson vs NU (Jrs)
*2 p.m.—Adamson vs NU (Srs)
*4 p.m.—FEU vs La Salle (Srs)
*Live on Studio 23

DEFENDING champion Far Eastern University tries to strengthen its hold of second spot when the Tamaraws open their second round campaign against the De La Salle Archers today in the UAAP men's basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

FEU is coming off a loss against Ateneo while La Salle is recovering from a stunner versus the University of the East when they collide at 4 p.m.

The skidding Adamson Falcons tackle the winless National University Bulldogs in the other senior matchup at 2 p.m.

La Salle clobbered FEU, 69-54, in their first round encounter. Archers Mac Cardona and Ryan Araña sizzled with double-digit performances then while Tamaraws' main man Arwind Santos delivered a dismal eight points.

But the Tamaraws went on to finish with a 5-2 slate at the end of the first round while the Archers wound up with a 4-3 card.

Archers coach Franz Pumaren, unperturbed by rumors that his job is on the line, noted that "it's too early to press the panic button."

"All the games that we lost were just by a few points because we failed to execute in the endgame," said Pumaren.

Jasmine W. Payo

Team PBL drops last match to Qatar

DOHA, QATAR—Team PBL, homeward bound from a winless stint in the International Group Basketball Championships, saved its worst for its last game here.

Scoring only two points on Jam Alfad freethrows in the final quarter, the selection of players from the Philippine Basketball League was mangled, 42-79, by the national team of host Qatar in the match for third place Thursday night.

Jordan's national squad, at best a fringe contender among Asia's powerhouses, upended Egypt, 70-57, later in the evening to capture the title.

PBL was in the game only in the first period, taking small early leads before allowing Qatar to grab the upperhand after the first ten minutes, 16-14.

When the hosts began hitting their three-pointers against the Filipinos' zone defense, things went from bad to worse even as Qatar took the half by only seven points, 33-26.

PBL mounted sporadic offensive forays in the final two periods but its defense went to pieces.

"It's really difficult for a selection to play against teams which have been together for many years," said coach Jun Baculi. "A club team reinforced by some imports might be the way to go as far as future representation is concerned."

Bancod, Paragua trip foes

FILIPINO International Masters Mark Paragua and Ronald Bancod beat their respective opponents in the 8th Genova Individual International Open Chess Championship yesterday in Genova, Italy.

Paragua beat Fide Master Folco Ferretti of Italy while Bancod bested IM Milan MRDJA of Croatia, boosting their total to 3.5 points after four rounds.

GM Miroljub Lazic of Yugoslavia and IM Ramon Mateo of Dominican Republic also have the same output.

GM Erald Dervishi of Albania, who defeated Filipino IM Yves Rañola, and IM Nikita Maiorov of Belarus shared top spot with 4 points each.

Rañola has 3 points like compatriots IM Joseph Sanchez, NM Rolando Nolte, NM Rolly Martinez and Roland Salvador. *NM Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Engert prevails

GERMAN Thomas Engert beat 2003 World Pool champion Thorsten Hohmann, 5-2, to rule the $50,000 winner-take all showdown of the 14th annual International Challenge of Champions in Mohegan Sun Casino, Uncasville, Connecticut, USA, last Thursday.

The event started with eight renowned pool masters, including reigning World Pool titlist Alex Pagulayan and defending champion Francisco "Django" Bustamante, who both crashed out in the first round. *Marlon Bernardino*

Probe of chess election sought

CALLING the exercise "illegal and anomalous," a regional director of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines yesterday sought the help of top sports leaders to investigate the recent NCFP election.

Nick Cervantes, regional coordinator for Caraga and president of the Surigao Chess Association, lodged a complaint against NCFP secretary general Sammy Estimo before Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit and Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain.

He said Estimo committed "illegal and anomalous" activities during the polls.

Cervantes claimed the election was illegal because no rollcall was made during the determination of the qualified voters. Not a single proxy certificate was made, he added.

To top it all, Cervantes said Estimo's appointment as chair of the membership committee was without a board resolution.

The election was held on July 31 at the Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club where Rep. Mat Defensor got re-elected along with Estimo.

The NCFP induction of officers, to be presided over by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, was scheduled last night.

Estimo refuted the allegations and claimed that Cervantes "has no personality to question the election because he's not a candidate nor a voting member of the NCFP."

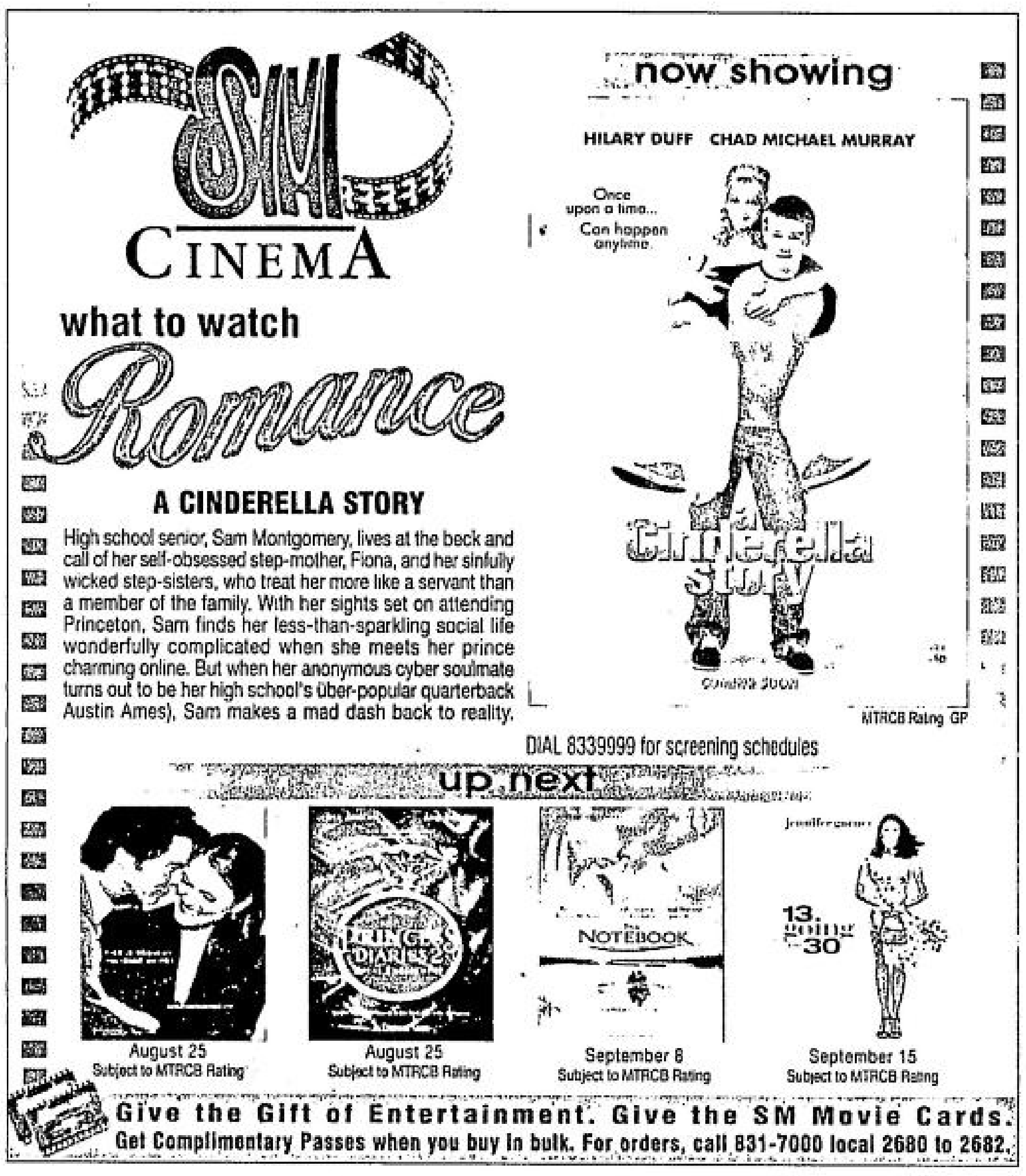
Cervantes, a columnist for the Mindanao Enquirer, also charged that Estimo did not remit membership fee and that he "controlled" the election by appointing the Comelec chair although he was himself a candidate.

Estimo undermined Cervantes' claims and said the complainant, who should have made the protest during the election, chose to walk out in the middle of the proceedings.

"He forfeited whatever right he had to participate in the poll," Estimo told the INQUIRER.

Both Buhain and Dayrit are in Athens overseeing the country's campaign. *Marc Reyes*

OLYMPIC INCENTIVE Manila Mayor Lito Atienza (middle) said the city will award a condominium unit at the Residencias de Manila to the first Filipino Olympic gold medalist. Atienza is shown with jins Donald David Geisler, Tshomlee Go and Maria Antoinette Rivero and son Ali.



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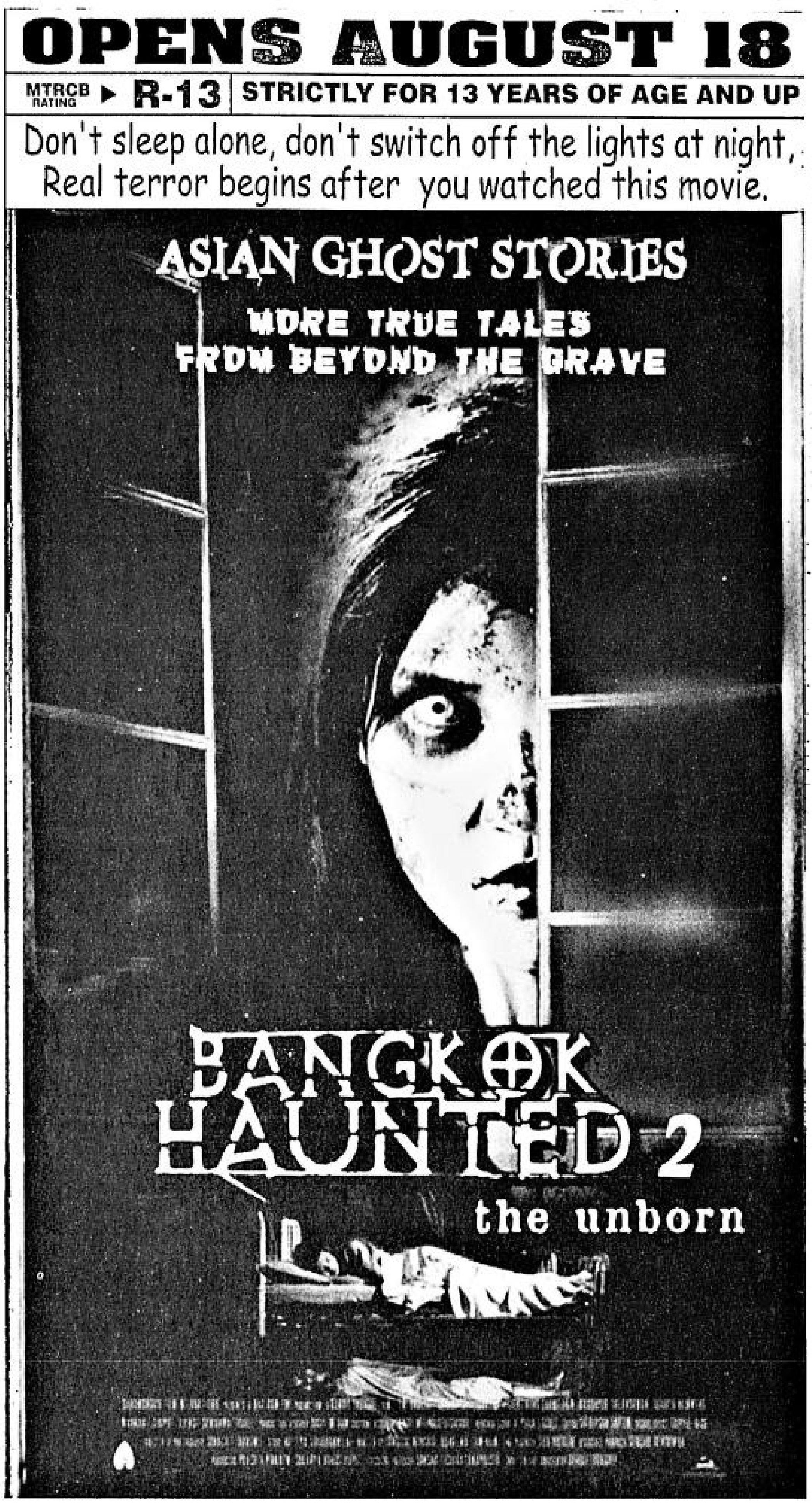

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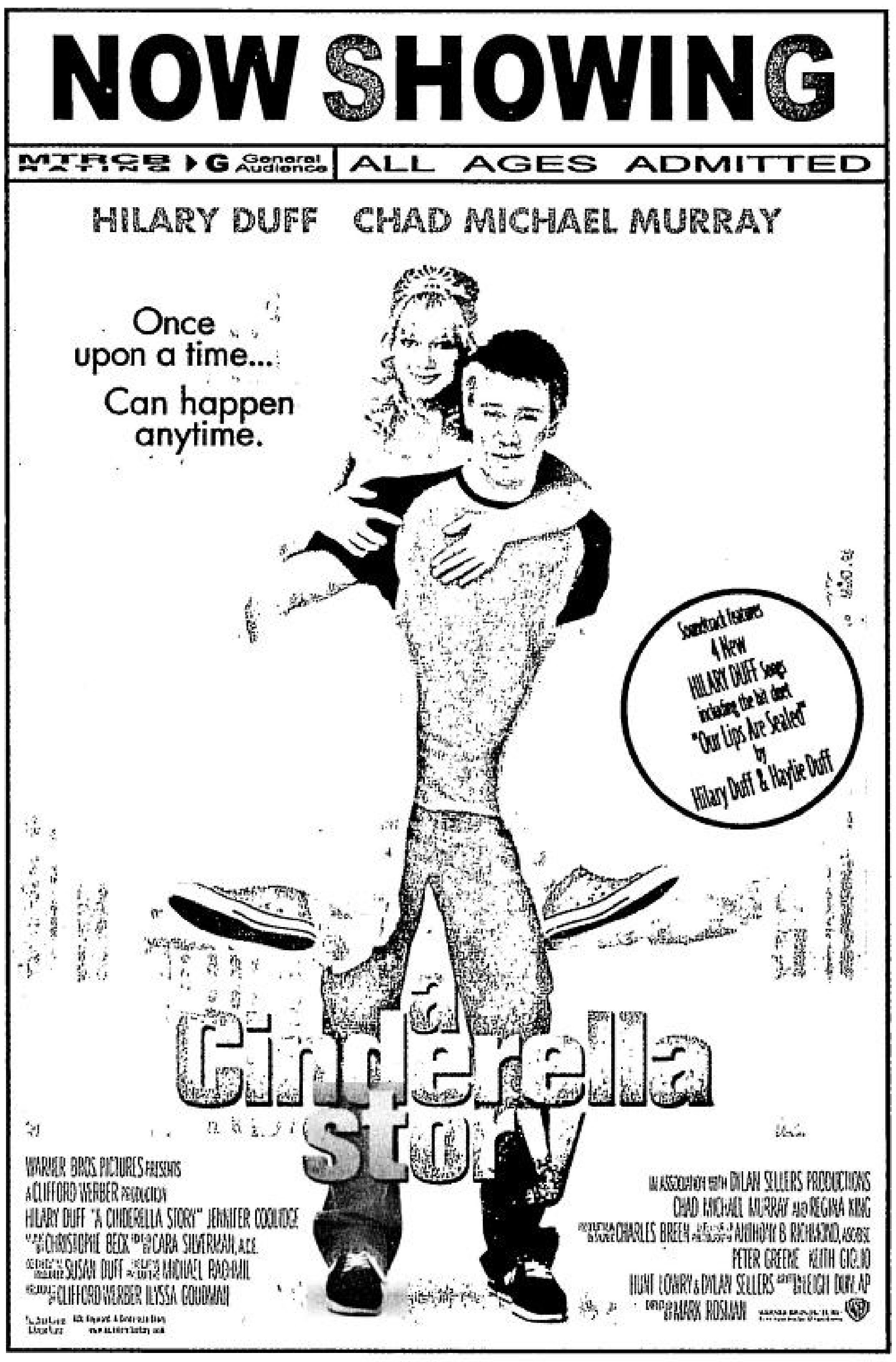

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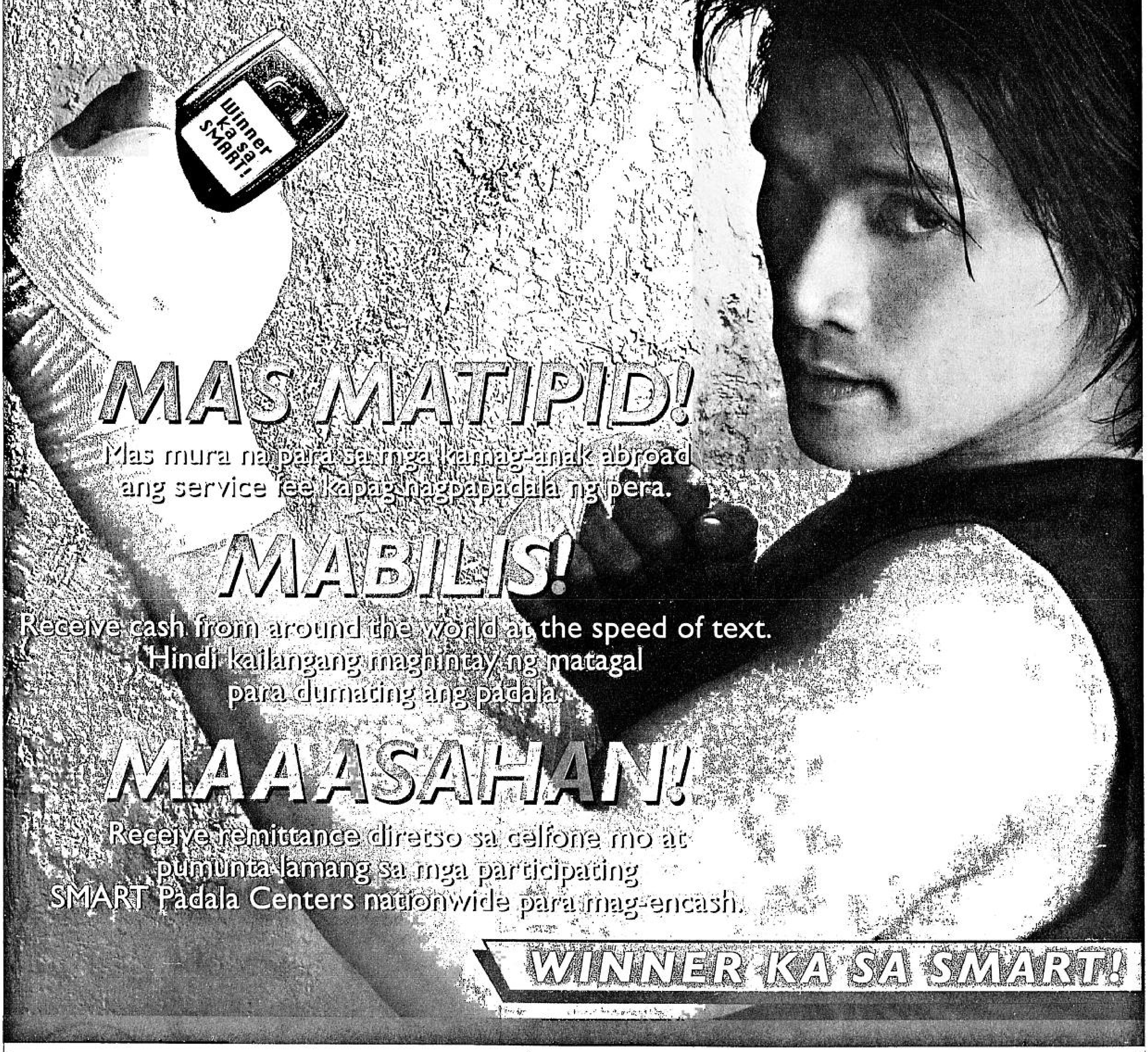
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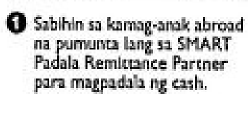

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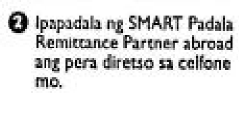

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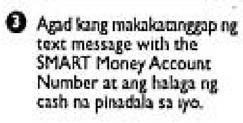

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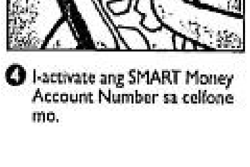

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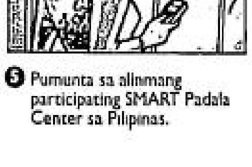

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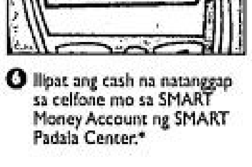

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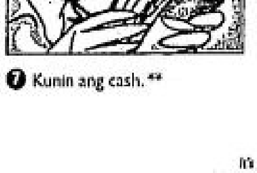

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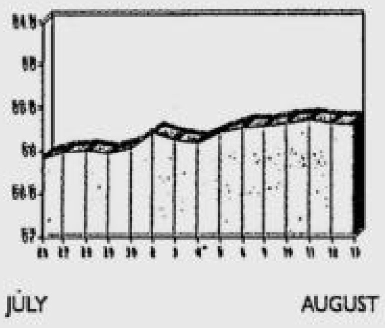
CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



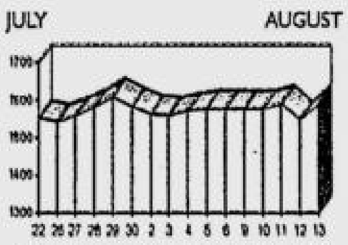
P 55.68 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 13, 2004

Y 111.94 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 13, 2004

GOLD: $392.90-393.40
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 13, 2004

STOCK MARKET

Shares close slightly lower



(See stock market report on Page B3)

SHARE prices closed 0.24 percent lower yesterday with sentiment affected by an overnight downturn on Wall Street and continued worries about high oil prices, dealers said.

Although corporate profits for the three months to June came in mostly better than a year earlier, investors are still wary about the current trend of oil prices, which may push inflation higher, the dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 3.85 points to 1,590.63 after moving between 1,584.75 and 1,595.02.

Losers slightly edged out gainers 30 to 28, while 56 stocks were unchanged.

Volume turnover fell to 1.09 billion shares worth P502.04 million from 1.36 billion shares worth P681.8 million on Thursday.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was down P10 at P1,270, while rival Globe Telecom was down P5 at P905. *AFP*

By Doris C. Dumlao

LENDING by the country's commercial banks grew by 3.8 percent in June from a year ago, the fastest pace so far this year, on higher loan availments by the manufacturing, community, social and personal services sectors.

The year-on-year loan growth in June was an improvement from the 1.7-percent annual rise posted in the previous month, according to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Officer-in-Charge Amando Tetangco Jr.

On a monthly basis, total commercial bank lending likewise picked up by 0.67 percent.

Tetangco said the manufacturing sector, which accounts for about 70 percent of industrial output, contributed 1.2 percentage points to the loan expansion in June. The annual growth in loans to this key sector, which comprised more than a quarter of total loans, accelerated to 4.7 percent in June from 2.3 percent in May.

Loans to the community, social and personal services sector contributed 1.4 percentage points to the loan growth in June.

Other sectors that contributed to the improvement in lending activity were the wholesale and retail trade (which contributed 0.96 percentage point); agriculture, fisheries and forestry (0.55 percentage point); electricity, gas and water (by 0.18 percentage point), and transportation, storage and communication (by 0.18 percentage point).

Commercial bank loans to the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector posted a third month of double-digit growth, rising by 10.3 percent year-on-year in June. This reflected the robust performance of the farm sector.

The farm sector, which accounts for a fifth of the domestic economy, posted a 6.61-percent production growth in the first semester due to bountiful palay and corn harvests.

However, BSP documents showed a decline in bank lending to other sectors such as mining and quarrying, construction, financial institutions, real estate and business services.

"Overall, expansion in the economy continues to be robust, with output growth driven by non-credit intensive sectors such as agriculture and services," Tetangco said.

"The observed pattern of moderate credit demand and investment growth implies that the stance of the monetary policy should give due consideration to the state of credit demand from the real sector," he said.

In the months ahead, Tetangco said monetary authorities would continue to monitor developments in the real and monetary sectors to ensure that credit conditions remained supportive of the economy's growth path without undermining price stability over the medium term.

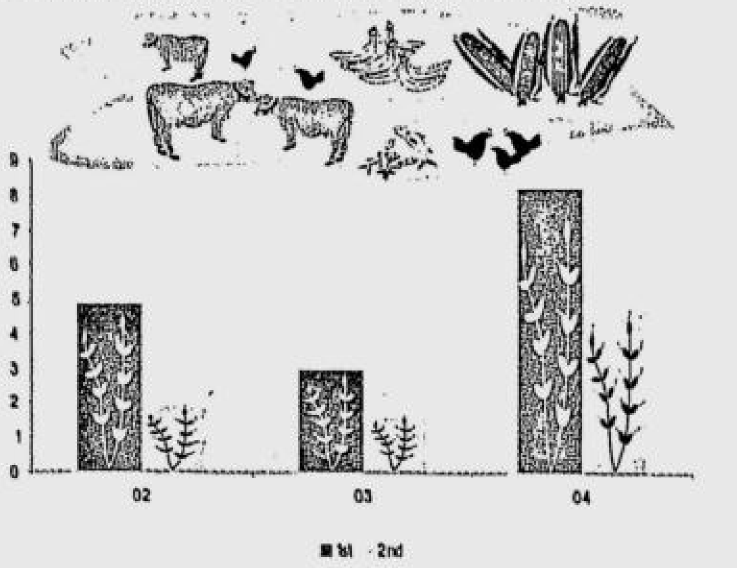
The BSP expects credit activity to strengthen further in the months ahead as consumption spending continue to be robust and investments start to pick up.

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Agriculture sector growth

(1st & 2nd quarters, 2002 to 2004, in percent)



Source: National Statistical Coordination Board, PDI archives

THE FARM sector grew by 4.68 percent in the second quarter this year, better than the 1.6-percent growth posted in the same quarter last year. For the first half of the year, growth was at 6.6 percent as all sub-sectors posted gains. The sector is expected to exceed the 4-percent growth target for the year.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

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BANKS' BACK TAXES

BIR eyes compromise deal

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue said it was willing to enter into a compromise settlement with banks over their back taxes worth about P30 billion.

"We are reasonable. We can enter into a compromise deal with them for as long as they acknowledge their tax liabilities," said Revenue Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares, who heads the agency's large taxpayers' unit.

Henares was referring to unpaid income, documentary stamp and value-added taxes on foreign currency transactions of several banks and offshore banking units (OBUs). These taxes were re-imposed in 1997 when the new tax code was implemented.

The Department of Finance estimated that these back taxes amounted to about P30 billion.

The BIR official said the government would be able to collect much less than P30 billion should it agree to enter into a compromise deal. However, she said the BIR was open to such a deal if the banks would opt for it to put an end to the dispute.

Prior to the implementation of the Tax Reform Act of 1997, OBUs and the local banks' foreign currency deposit units (FCDUs) were exempted from all taxes, except the 10-percent tax on interest income.

The banking industry said the BIR should not collect taxes from OBUs and FCDUs even after the implementation of the 1997 tax code because the tax exemptions were not really lifted. What seemed to have lifted the exemptions, the banks claimed, was a clerical error in the crafting of the tax law.

For its part, the BIR said Congress would not have lifted the tax exemptions if the move was not intentional. Henares earlier said the BIR was firm to go after the banks and to collect their "unpaid" tax liabilities.

Standard Chartered Bank was earlier reported as saying that (foreign) banks might be forced to leave the Philippines for business opportunities in other countries if they would be made to pay the said taxes.

Amid clamor against taxes on OBUs and FCDUs, a bill restoring the tax exemptions was passed by Congress and approved by Malacañang in the first half of this year. The BIR said, however, that the law did not prevent the revenue agency from collecting the back taxes.

Nokia sees steady growth of RP mobile phone market

By Clarissa S. Batino

NOKIA Philippines Inc. sees a sustained growth in the local mobile telecom market but at a pace slower than projected.

Globe Telecom Inc. said last week that 45 to 50 percent of the estimated 86 million Filipinos would become mobile phone subscribers by the end of 2005, up from the projected 37 percent of 84 million by the end of this year.

Nokia's country manager Parikshit Bhasin said the Philippines remained a strong market for mobile phone handsets. He, however, said that the aggressive marketing efforts of domestic carriers could be clouding an accurate picture of the subscriber base.

Globe president Gerardo Ablaza Jr. said subscription growth might be overstated as the country's top two wireless players were into an aggressive SIM swap campaign in the race to sign up more customers.

Still, Bhasin pointed out that the growth of the local market for mobile phones had outpaced the global performance.

Nokia estimated that as of end-June, there were 1.5 billion mobile phone subscribers worldwide, accounting for 23 percent of the total world population.

By 2007, the subscriber base is expected to hit 2 billion.

The Finnish telecom supplier accounts for 75 to 85 percent of the local cellular phone market. Bhasin said that globally, Nokia sold 45 million out of the 148 million units sold during the second quarter.

Bhasin said that 600 million new handsets would be sold globally this year by Nokia and other manufacturers.

He said Globe Telecom's subscriber forecast for the local market was achievable considering that as of the end of the first half, 33 percent of the population was already using mobile phones.

Based on Nokia's numbers, there were 26.9 million Filipino cellular phone users by the end of June.

Globe said it had 10.5 million subscribers by the end of the first half versus Smart's 16.1 million. This indicates that third-player Sun Cellular of Digitel Mobile Philippines Inc. has about 300,000 subscribers.

Nokia is planning to introduce new handsets, including the new Communicator called Nokia 9500, in the second half of the year.

The new handsets will offer improved features such as a flashlight and a compass (Nokia 5140) and wave messaging (Nokia 3220), that flashes a lighted message that can be read from afar.

"Without a doubt, Nokia is still the undisputed leader in the Philippines. But we welcome competition because it brings out the best in us," said Bhasin.

New technologies seen to boost job creation strategy

THE ADOPTION of new but tested technologies to help improve farm yields and increase farm income is expected to further boost the strategy of the Arroyo administration in the creation of six million new jobs in the agriculture sector in the next six years.

Agriculture Undersecretary and food security and jobs creation head Theresa Cruz-Capellan said the strategy would ensure that farm productivity would contribute to President Arroyo's food security goals while perking up countryside economies.

Capellan said her office had already pinpointed three farm technologies that would catalyze farm productivity and create jobs, namely hybrid corn, hybrid rice and Chinese-bred hogs.

Capellan is slated to head a delegation of farmer-leaders in a visit to China this week to take a first-hand look at new developments in these technologies. Joining Capellan in the visit are Rod Bioco, Philmaize president; Albert Lim, president of the Philippine Hog Raisers Federation, and Henry Lim, leader of the hybrid rice seed sector.

Capellan said the country's experience in using the Chinese hybrid rice since 2002 had resulted in an increase of one job for every two hectares planted to hybrid rice. The national average yield of hybrid rice is about 220 cavans per hectare, a big improvement from the certified seeds' average yield of 50 cavans per hectare, she said.

This year, the DA is planting hybrid rice to 150,000 hectares during the wet season, and another 200,000 hectares for the dry season, or a total of 350,000 hectares. This is expected to create an estimated 23,842 jobs throughout the country.

Capellan said that for 2005, the DA is targeting another 400,000 hectares, and a resulting increase in the job count to 44,649.

Vitarich trims losses to ₱70.1M

VITARICH Corp. said it was able to limit its net loss to P70.1 million in the first half, or lower than the P351.2 million posted in the same period last year.

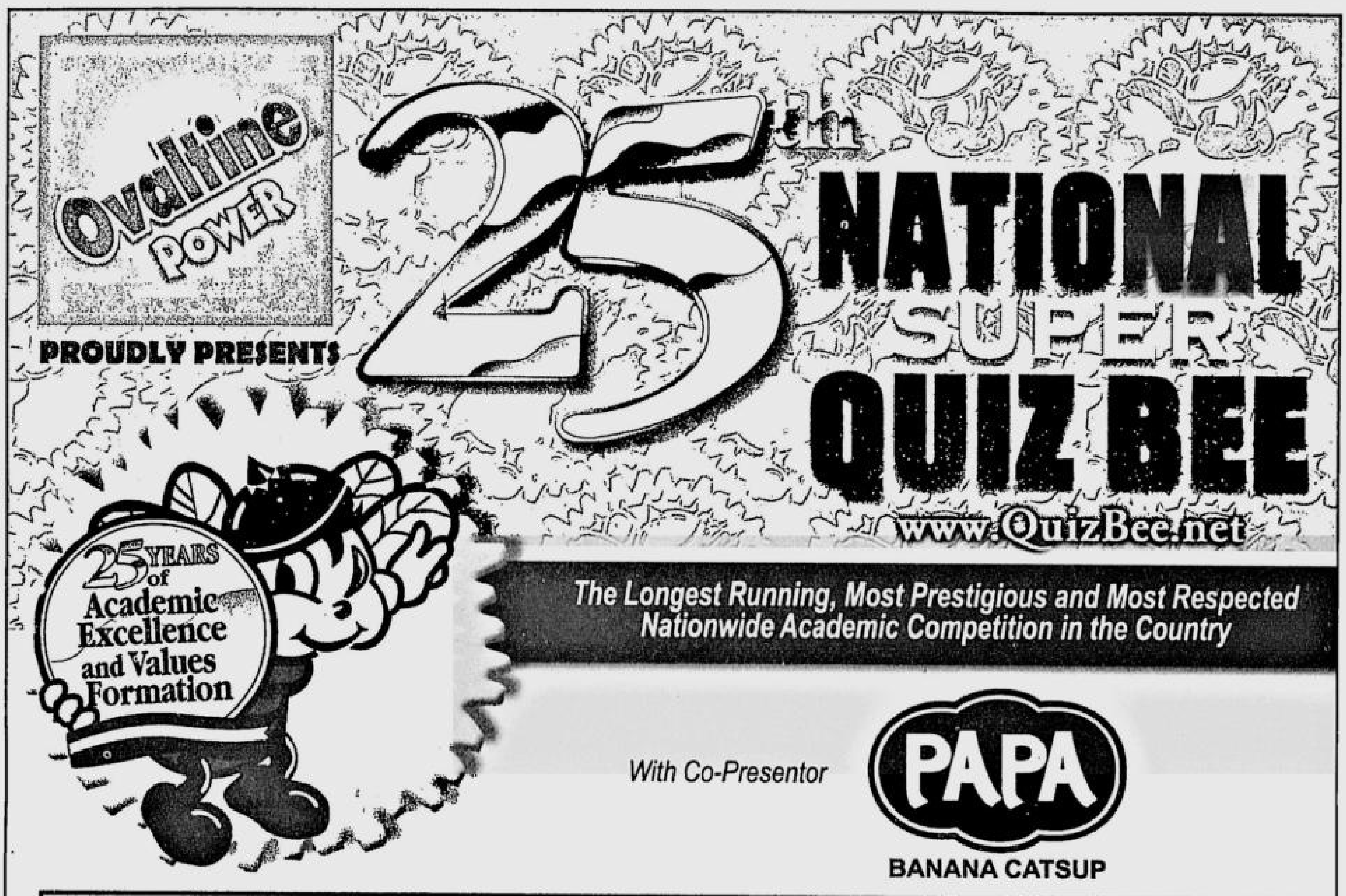
In the second quarter, the company recorded an operating loss of P6.7 million, 75 percent better than the P26.9 million in losses recorded in the second quarter last year.

Consolidated sales declined 9 percent in the second quarter to P1.1 billion from P1.2 billion. Total sales amounted to P2 billion in the first half from P2.2 billion.

The decrease was due to the sudden drop in the volume of poultry as a result of a deliberate move by the company to reduce its poultry business, Vitarich said in its financial report. The share of feeds to the total sales mix increased to 57 percent from only 39 percent last year, while that of poultry declined to 43 percent from 61 percent.

Operating expenses was lower at P2 billion in the first half from P2.4 billion last year.

Philippines' Favorite Chicken Inc., a subsidiary of Vitarich and operator of Texas Chicken Restaurant, posted a sales revenue of P35 million in the second quarter, or 15 percent higher than the year-ago level. This was due to the company's aggressive marketing campaign and the shutting down of non-profitable branches. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*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Level II	Nat'l Junior Quiz Bee Secondary Level 1st - 4th Yr High School 14-17 years old	• *Science & Technology*
Level III	Nat'l Senior Quiz Bee Tertiary Level 1st - 5th Yr College 18-22 years old	• *General Information & International Affairs*

National Eliminations

School Eliminations
Aug 1-31, 2004

Division Eliminations
Oct 1-31, 2004

District Eliminations
Sep 1-30, 2004

Regional Eliminations
Nov 1-15, 2004

SCHEDULE OF METRO MANILA ELIMINATIONS

CONTEST	COMPETITION DATE	VENUE
DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIPS Manila, Pasay City	Saturday, Aug 14, 2004	World Trade Center, Manila
Muntinlupa, Taguig, Pateros Paranaque, Las Pinas	Thursday, Aug 19, 2004	Alabang Town Center
Quezon City, Makati City	Saturday, Sep 18, 2004	Ali Mall Center
Pasig, Marikina, San Juan Mandaluyong	Saturday, Oct 2, 2004	Robinsons Galleria
Caloocan City, Valenzuela Malabon, Navotas	Saturday, Oct 16, 2004	SM City EDSA
METRO MANILA REGIONAL FINALS	Saturday, Nov 6, 2004	Robinsons Place

NATIONAL SUPER QUIZ BEE
SUMMIT & GRAND FINALS
December 9-12, 2004

The Summit of the Super Quiz Bee and the National Grand Finals will be held at the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) Hotel & Conference Center in Tagaytay City where 136 regional champions and teacher-coaches will enjoy a four-day all expense paid live-in camp with tours, conferences and fellowships.

PRIZES PER SUBJECT CATEGORY
(Makabayan, Mathematics, Science & Technology, and General Information & International Affairs)

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RFM nets ₱15M in Q2

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

RFM CORP. posted a profit of P15 million from April to June, reversing its P65 million loss in the second quarter of last year.

Sales for the quarter grew 8.8 percent to P1.4 billion, while operating income was at P73 million. Last year, RFM posted an operating loss of P32 million in the same period.

"We are beginning to see the first fruits of our investments in brand building even as we tighten up on our product supply costs and operating expenses," said Jose A. Concepcion III, RFM president and chief executive officer.

For the first half of the year, the company recorded a net loss of P15 million. The figure is lower than the P98 million posted during the same period last year.

Sales from January to June grew 11.3 percent to P2.7 billion, while operating income stood at P79 million for the first half.

RFM is expected to wipe out its losses this year or break even from a loss of P572 million in 2003.

RFM manufactures the Selecta Moo brand of ready-to-drink and powdered milk, Sunkist ready-to-drink juice and powdered juice, White King hotcake and flour mixes, Fiesta pasta products, Swift Mighty Meaty and Sweet N Juicy hotdogs, corned beef and other meat products. It also markets Selecta ice cream.

SMC beer sales up 20%

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. said beer volume grew 18 percent in the first half of the year.

In a disclosure, SMC said sales revenue for domestic beer grew over 20 percent to P18 billion, while operating income jumped 25 percent to P4 billion.

SMC believes the uptrend in domestic consumption will continue due to improved distribution, right product portfolio and the influx of new drinkers in the market.

SMC also said volume sales in the Visayas and Mindanao rose significantly.

In 2003, SMC's domestic beer volume grew by 12 percent and accounted for over 90 percent of the local beer market.

"The company is highly optimistic of the beer market's upside potential, considering that historical consumption was as much as 25 liters per capita in the early '90s," SMC said.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 13, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	4,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17.5	17	17.25	289,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41	41	41	41	104,500
China Banking Corp.	535	535	535	535	1,210
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	40	40	39.5	39.5	23,400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	300,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	26.5	25.5	26	92,600
Philippine National Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	5,600
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	27.5	27	27.5	15,200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	21.75	21.75	21.75	21.75	1,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.25	24.25	23.75	23.75	5,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	160	179	160	179	400
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	369,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	110	110	110	110	1,750
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1485	1485	1485	1485	380
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21	21	21	21	28,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.65	0.65	4,520,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	905	905	900	905	34,030
Ipeople Inc.	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.48	153,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	2,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	20,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.55	2.55	2.5	2.55	13,033,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	30,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1285	1285	1270	1270	62,940
Ivantage Corp.	0.73	0.78	0.66	0.67	42,230,000
Philweb Corp.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	4,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15	15	15	21,900
Manila Electric Co. B	23.25	23.25	22.75	23.25	227,800
Petron Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.65	2.65	762,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.36	2.36	35,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	178,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	2,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.6	3.6	3.55	3.55	100,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	550,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	1,610,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	5,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.82	1,080,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	5,300
Jollibee Foods Corp.	25.5	26	25.5	26	700
RFM Corp.	0.77	0.84	0.77	0.82	230,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56.5	57.5	56.5	57.5	102,400
San Miguel Corp. B	70.5	70.5	70	70.5	26,700
Universal Robina Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	75,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.31	1,350,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	3,000,000
Ayala Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5	6,880,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	109,000
Alo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.024	1,500,000
APC Group Inc.	0.0925	0.0925	0.0725	0.0725	400,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	65,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	20,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.1	40,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	27,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.51	4,650,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	560,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.24	13,810,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	1.48	1.5	1.36	1.48	12,100,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	1,000,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	3	3	3	3	1,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24	24	23.5	23.75	272,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.075	0.0775	0.0725	0.0775	33,700,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	50,000
Ionics Inc.	1.24	1.4	1.24	1.38	2,503,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.68	23,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.36	1.36	209,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	2,400,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	205,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.18	80,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.34	0.3	0.33	44,150,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	4,000,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.155	0.14	0.15	2,190,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	1,500,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	76,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.99	1	0.99	1	4,900,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0675	0.07	0.0675	0.07	5,600,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.78	0.79	0.73	0.74	38,410,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	20,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	1,730,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21	21.25	21	21	171,100
Macroasia Corp. Warrants	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	40,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Dd	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	1,954,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.51	0.52	0.51	0.51	990,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.235	0.26	0.235	0.26	6,330,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.25	3,640,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.98	430,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.06	0.095	0.06	0.095	600,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	200,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	1,680,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.9	21,740,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0044	215,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.4	3.4	3.35	3.35	36,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.23	0.22	0.225	7,100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	4,080,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	13,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	215,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	123,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.39	0.41	0.39	0.4	8,160,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	1,310,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.14	400,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	18,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0038	0.004	0.0038	0.0038	101,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	20,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.1	3.1	2.65	2.65	410,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.036	0.036	0.034	0.035	4,400,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	200,000

CURRENCIES

August 13, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.815993	1.000000	55.6410
Japan	Yen	0.007359	0.009018	0.5018
United Kingdom	Pound	1.487230	1.822600	101.4113
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.104639	0.128235	7.1351
Switzerland	Franc	0.649676	0.796178	44.3001
Canada	Dollar	0.613022	0.751258	41.8007
Singapore	Dollar	0.475742	0.583022	32.4399
Australia	Dollar	0.581647	0.712809	39.6614
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.164554	2.652661	147.5967
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.217599	0.266667	14.8376
Brunei	Dollar	0.474360	0.581328	32.3457
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000088	0.000108	0.0060
Thailand	Baht	0.019662	0.024096	1.3407
UAE	Dirham	0.222172	0.272272	15.1495
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.225500	68.1880
Argentina	Peso	0.270420	0.331400	18.4394
Brazil	Real	0.269394	0.330142	18.3694
India	Rupee	0.017678	0.021664	1.2054
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214764	0.263193	14.6443
Mexico	New Peso	0.071409	0.087512	4.8693
New Zealand	Dollar	0.536838	0.657895	36.6059
Korea	Won	0.000705	0.000864	0.0481
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023950	0.029351	1.6331

Araneta firm won't buy back stake in LBC Global

THE ARANETA family, which has a 90-percent stake in the holding firm LBC Global Corp., yesterday announced that they would not buy back the remaining 10 percent ATR Kim Eng Financial Corp. held in LBC Global.

In a disclosure yesterday, lawyers of Carlos Araneta advised ATRKE Financial that the family "will not honor the exercise of a put option."

ATRKE Financial wants the Araneta family to buy back its P353.25-million stake in LBC Global.

The put option expired yesterday.

The lawyers and management of ATRKE Financial yesterday said that they were "studying alternative courses of action."

Officials of both companies refused to discuss details in light of the cases pending before US and Philippine courts.

ATR Kim Eng is a domestic investment holding company offering financial services. It wholly owns ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc., the largest non-bank related investment house in the country.

LBC Global meanwhile is the holding company of all LBC companies, offering express delivery services.

LBC Global, which is based in Delaware company, has been renamed PMHI Holdings Corp.

In December 2003, ATRKE Financial and its subsidiary filed a case before a Delaware court to compel LBC Global to produce certain books and records which the ATR group would like to inspect.

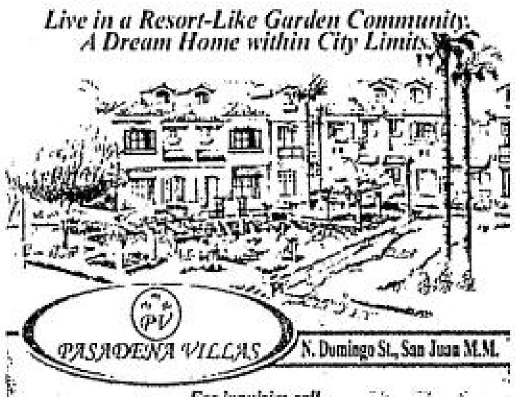
ATRKE officials claimed that, because they only have a 10-percent stake in LBC Global, they were refused access to the books and records.

"The ensuing examination of the records of LBC Global by the ATR group revealed certain significant asset dispositions and other transactions that were executed, including the change of corporate name from LBC Global to PMHI Holdings, without the prior knowledge and consent of the ATR companies," ATRKE Financial earlier said in a disclosure.

The ATRKE companies then demanded that information relating to these transactions be produced to determine whether they need to exercise their option to sell their 10 percent stake in LBC Global back to Carlos R. Araneta and LBC Development Corp. on or before Aug. 15.

Sometime in April, the Aranetas filed a separate case with the Makati Regional Trial Court seeking the annulment of its 1999 joint venture agreement with ATRKE Capital.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez



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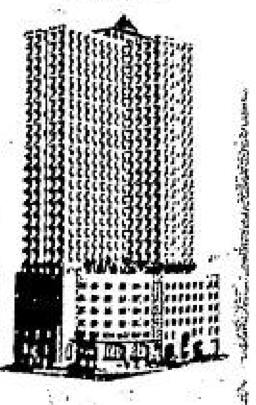

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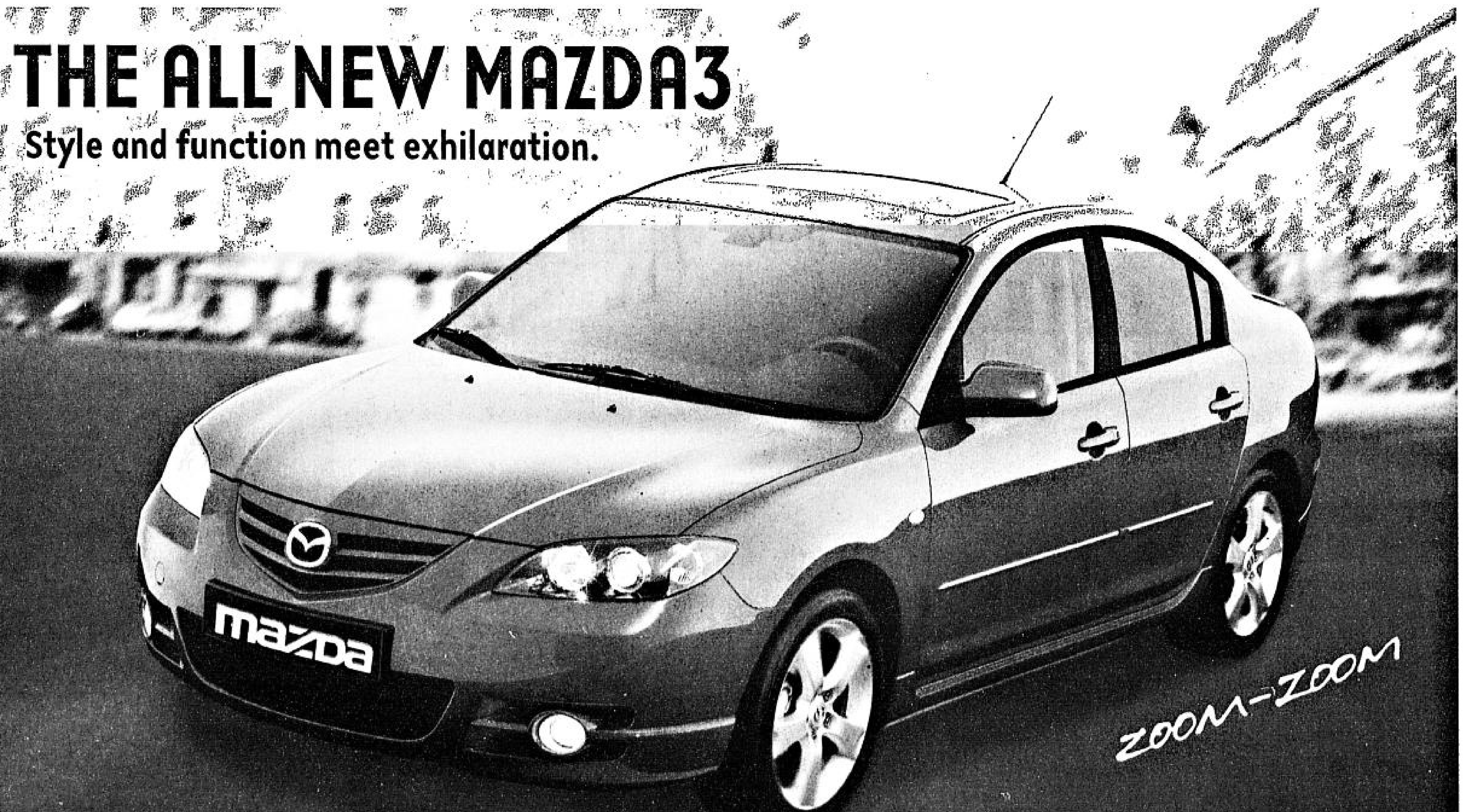

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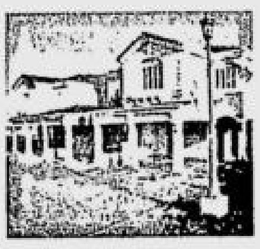

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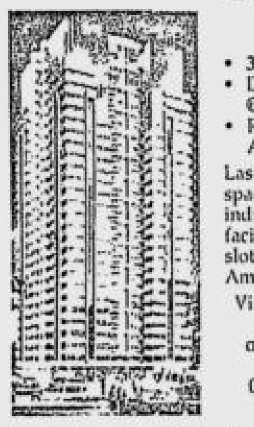

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HOUSE & LOT

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PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

OTHER AREAS

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HOUSE

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CONDO/TWNHSE

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Mkt.2br Studio P8.5-P13.5 No due Near Ayala tel/prk/Secu 890-6374

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TWNHSE/3 UNITS/3FLRS/4BRS MULTI-USE: OFC/CLNC/RES/ 1103 DEL PAN ST. MKTI W/GRGE 872-3425 0916-3135877

U-22E 2BR FRN W/ PARKING ESTN PLCE COND 8509009

MANILA

P.FFAURA ROBINSON TOWER 551-7832 (0920)511-7590

STA. ANA VILLAS 4BR/5T&B MAID'S RM, 2 CAR GARAGE T-8184238/8127741 Juliet

QUEZON CITY

Nr Quezon Blvd Studio P3.5T 3738989 / 4563754 / 9317159

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2BR 2BATH #4455 Montojo St. Pasong Tamo Mkti Tel# 2412776-8438674

4456 Montojo St Bgy Singkamas, La Paz Mktl Carina Garcia 243-4445

MANILA

840 P.Noval NR UST Tel 7313035 7361925 9289541

PASIG

#20 San Mateo Kapitolyo Nice Loc Call 641-3771

QUEZON CITY

2BR XAVIERVILLE P14000 near ATENEO/UP T9299536

80-C Up / Dwn 2Rms w/Grge Pangasian Near SM City 0917-4796789 926-3934 453-4709

Brand new 2BR condo/apt plenty water secu guard T983-0956/0921-2677060

Brnd new studio type Proj 2 4342604 / 0919-2876641

Studio nr UP 5T T4362272

FOR LEASE

RUSH PACIFIC PLAZA 3BR furnish P70T/mo 6337601-03

WANTED TO LEASE

LA LOMA 800m² 09174061980

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

3KM FROM C-5/FORT 4X1 100SQM 3 PHASE ELEC HI-CEILING ALSO 3 HECTARE VACNAT LOT PASIG/TAGUIG 09178370868 / 3638936-40

ROOM & BOARD

120 MLA 7118679/4112311

BF PQUE 8257524/24HRS

Mkt Male FF/prkg/nice 8979417

Proj3 lady 3T studio 9137513

BEDSPACE

Resdn'l/Furnish 2PerRm Male Single Bed T897-3770

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BUSINESS RENTAL

Dr Clinic, Ofc space, Spa / Barber 9291235 near Congresional QC

Grocery, Rice, Poultry Store Canteen 9291235 Edsa QC

Res/Ofc 6319771 / 6349500

MAKATI

PTAMO nr BUENDIA 1st class 38/57/62/148/185m² 8903461 loc. 34 or 19 ofc hrs.

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

BUSN DOC OFW 524-3197

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L BUSINESS PERSONAL Gigie Ernie 8903461 loc 25/23

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

MALATE MLA 526-8048

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

ALEXANDRA 3BR 250;216m² P40-65T/mo Sale@P9-14M for appt call 633-7601/03

Twnhse 3BR 2TB 0927-5277113

QUEZON CITY

ACROPOLIS HSES sale/rent 3-4BR @P50-120T/mo rent P16-25M sale 6337601-03

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

CHRYSLER

TOWN & COUNTRY, 2003, Red, 25TKm excellent condition, well-maintained P1.4M Call 0922-3100922

FORD

2000 FORD EXPLORER 4x4 830T 0917-7924936 / 5216227

MAZDA

99 MAZDA 323LX P260K 415-6051

MITSUBISHI

RUSH SALE LANCER GLXI SPORTY LOOK Floaded 2727813

NISSAN

Nissan EX Saloon Matic 99 250 Neg White 09178108294

Nissan Patrol 2002 White A/T • 0917-4061980•

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Space Gear Vanette Delica Serena Town Hi-Ace Estima etc. T-In OK 8328659

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

Crane 40T HYD KOBELLOBKHOE 0917-8945146 / 0917-8386991

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CAR VANS 410-0495

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8969956

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

ABC RENT A CAR
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TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

STAREX MB100 HIACE 8277135

Toyco U Drive Coaster / Car Vans Rental • 8023022 or 21

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% 1HR CAR LOAN 3743803

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567685

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Control weight now 3758988

SLIMMING PROGRAM 5221138

Tired N Sick? Take RE-VITA LIQUAHEALTH 09178479179

BILLIARDS

Sale/Rental/Servce 8014494

BUY/SELL

EDUC PLAN Gie 7800106

EDUC'L PLAN Dang 8061574

COMPUTER

Toshiba Laptop 600MHZ/64MB/6.49B/CdRom/56K/LAN/FDD P24T NEG. 09277912041

TOSHIBA LAPTOP W/DVD P27T NEG. 09277912041

FIGHTING COCK

Angeles CT Gamefowls, Bulls etc 0458877650/09179619238

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GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

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323rd PCCI & 324th PCCI
ALL BREEDS DOGSHOWS
MANDALUYONG GYM
MANDALUYONG CITY
AUG. 14 & 15, 2004
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
MR. GRAHAM KERR (AUST)
MS. HELEN FURBER (Aust)
STRICTLY NO ADDENDUM
Waiting for Handlers Is No Longer Allowed
Specials Features:
Obedience Trials Demonstration
Free Anti-Rabies Vaccinations
Seminar on Rabies Preventions

Saturday, August 14, 2004
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Sporting Grp & Terrier Grp
12:30 PM – 1:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Hound Group/Toy Group

Sunday, August 15, 2004
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Non-Sporting Grp & Herding Grp
12:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Working Group

CORPORATE SPONSORS:
ADVANCE
SCIENCE DIET

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **AURORA C. FLORES** adjudicated by her surviving heir DEBORRAH S. MOSTOLES with TCT No. 106624 as per Doc. No. 206 Page No. 143 Book No. 4A Series of 2003 before Notary Public Atty. Hector B. Centeno.
(PDI-Aug. 14, 21 & 28, 2004)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

ATTN:CEBU CITY RESIDENTS Extra Income 032-2641982 Nico

BRUNEI SCHOOL *w/License 4 Investor Minimum Peso 1MILLION • 0917-6278017

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J-Venture Nr UST 634-1212

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Tine 0927-5803730 / 687-4793

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(REBIDDING)

The National Food Authority (NFA) invites authorized suppliers of Grain Mechanical Dryers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply, Delivery, Installation and Test-run/Commissioning of Batch Recirculating Grain Dryers for the following locations:

A. FOR LUZON PROJECT

LOT	QTY.	ITEM	LOCATION	APPROVED BUDGET	SOURCE OF FUNDS
5	3	Batch Recirculating Dryer with holding capacity of 6 metric tons	Region V	P1,800,000.00	NFA's Appropriation

B. FOR VISAYAS AND MINDANAO (VisMin) PROJECT

LOT	QTY.	ITEM	LOCATION	APPROVED BUDGET	SOURCE OF FUNDS
3	10	Batch Recirculating Dryer with holding capacity of 6 metric tons, four (4) units to be provided with 10kVA gasoline genset (prime mover) each	Region IX	P6,680,000.00	NFA's Appropriation

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

Activities	Date
Issuance of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents	August 16-23, 2004
Pre-Bid Conference	August 24, 2004, 10:00 AM
Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bids	September 6, 2004, 10:00 AM
Opening of Bids	Immediately after Submission deadline

Each bidder shall enclose a Bidder's Security in any of the schedules of amount as follows:

A.	Cash Managers Check, Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit or Bank Draft	1% of the Approved Budget for Contract
B.	Bank Guarantee	1.5% of the Approved Budget for Contract
C.	Surety Bond	2.5% of the Approved Budget for Contract
D.	Foreign Guarantees	100% of the Approved Budget for Contract

Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents can be secured from the BAC Secretariat at the following officers.

For the Luzon Project	Telephone No.	Contact Person
NFA Central Office – 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City	(02) 712-1701	Ray
NFA Regional office – Cabanatuan City	(044) 600-0722	William
For the Visayas and Mindanao Projects		
NFA Central Office – 101 E. Rodriguez Sr., Ave., Quezon City	(02) 711-7403	Thelma
NFA Gen. Santos City	(083) 554-5444	Diane

Bidding documents shall be issued only to interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 per lot.

It is required that the prospective bidder's must have a single largest contract – completed within the last seven (7) years and similar to the contract to be bidded – whose value, adjusted to current prices, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Venue for the Pre-Bidding Conference for both Luzon and VisMin Projects is at the HRMD Training Room, 7th Floor NFA Central Office 101 E. Rodriguez, Sr. Ave., Quezon City. Submission and Opening of Bids shall be at the NFA Cabanatuan City Farmers Training Center for the Luzon Project, and NFA Davao City Provincial Office, Sta. Ana Avenue, Davao City for the Visayas and Mindanao Projects.

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formality in the bids received, provided that such waiver does not refer to a major deviation in a bid and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the National Food Authority, NFA shall likewise assume no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of their respective bid.

NFA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their respective bid.

(Sgd.) JESSUP P. NAVARRO
Assistant Administrator for Stabilization and Chairman, BAC Luzon

(Sgd.) LUDOVICO J. JARINA
Assistant Administrator for Industry Development and Chairman, BAC VisMin

(PDI – August 14 & 21, 2004)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Bids and Awards Committee – Head Office, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites BSP/G-EPS registered Middle Office Risk Management System providers/vendors and other interested bidders to indicate their interest to bid for:

One (1) lot supply, delivery and implementation of the appropriate products and implementation services necessary to successfully carry out the Risk Management Systems (RMS) Project of our Treasury Department

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC): P84.525 Million

Delivery Period : The system shall be on actual use within six (6) months after award of contract inclusive of the trial and run testing

Interested bidders must submit the following documents to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) thru the BAC Secretariat, Room 212, 2nd Floor, Five-Storey Building, corner A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila, not later than **August 28, 2004, 4:30 p.m.**, Philippine Time:

1. Articles of Partnership/Incorporation and/or Business Registration Papers
2. Y2003 Audited Financial Statements (Income Statement & Balance Sheet)
3. Y2003 Income Tax Return, duly stamped received by the internal revenue authority/collecting agent
4. Taxpayer's Identification Number
5. Valid and current Mayor's permit/municipal license (if applicable)
6. Prospective bidder's computation of Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) which shall be at least equal to the ABC, duly signed by the authorized signing official and supported with pertinent documents, i.e., financial statements and copies of on-going project contracts; or a commitment from a licensed bank to extend to it a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid, or a cash deposit certificate in an amount not lower than 10% of the ABC. The NFCC shall be computed as follows: NFCC = [(Current Asset less Current Liabilities) (K)] minus value of all outstanding projects; K = 10
7. Duly notarized statement that the bidder is not blacklisted from bidding in any Government Office, Agency, Corporation
8. Letter authorizing the BAC or its duly authorized representative to verify any or all of the documents/information submitted for eligibility check
9. Duly notarized certification by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative that each of the documents submitted is an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original
10. Sworn affidavit of the bidder that he or she or any officer of the corporation is not related to the Head of the Procuring Entity by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.
11. Company Profile
12. Reference sites where RMS services on treasury had been rendered and are willing to provide detailed information concerning reference project. For each reference site, the following details should be provided:
    - a. Name of the organization and contact person
    - b. Current telephone number, fax number and email address of contact person

Only those who comply with the above requirements will be issued the Request for Proposal (RFP) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **P42,300.00.** Preliminary conference/s will be conducted later for pre-selected bidders.

Pre-selected bidders should submit an initial but complete technical proposal to the BAC thru its Technical Working Group (TWG) and should be prepared to make a presentation of their proposals, if required. The TWG's review of the submitted technical proposals may lead to a revised RFP.

The BAC shall issue invitation(s) to Bid (ITB) to pre-selected bidders. In response to the ITB, the bidders should submit a final technical proposal based on the revised RFP and a financial bid. The winner shall be selected on the basis of quality-based evaluation procedure. The BSP assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate and indemnify the bidders for expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their proposals.

While bids by Joint Venture are acceptable, the BSP intends to contract with a single entity. Bidders as the prime contractors shall take full responsibility for all subcontracted services and must, in their bid, include sufficient and relevant information on joint-venture partners.

The winning bidder must be ready to comply with the following:

1. Must have full copyright ownership of the application software being proposed.
2. Must have an existing central Bank client/s and/or internationally active banks using the system
3. Must be committed to meet the new BIS risk standards
4. Must use their best efforts to preserve the confidentiality of any business proprietary or confidential information submitted by BSP.
5. Must ensure that sufficient number of qualified personnel will be assigned fulltime in the project until its full implementation.

The BSP assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate and indemnify the bidders for expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their proposals.

(Sgd.) **Ma. DOLORES B. YUVIENCO**
Chairperson

(PDI–August 14, 2004)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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COLL LEVEL Computer Course Send resume w/photo to 8944950 hdrglobal@edsamail.com.ph

NEED ASST TUTOR 7254870

PRIVATE NURSE PT ACGTG CLERK SEND RESUME PCTRE TO 22M ROBINSON TOWER P. FAURA MLA 551-7832

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BSP•BSN•PT•NT
Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mo! 8927828

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MALE/FEMALE

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PUBLIC AUCTION

AUGUST 24, 2004 • TUESDAY • 2:00 p.m.
PLAZA LETICIA • 2nd Floor
Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City

CABANATUAN CITY

LOT 1 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 150 sqm.
Lot 11 / Blk 13 Goldenville Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 345,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 150 sqm.
Lot 12 / Blk 13 Goldenville Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 345,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 375 sqm.
L22 B39 Antonio St. Kapt Pepe Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 713,000.00

LOT 4 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 240 sqm.
Floor Area: 15 sqm.
L2B16 31St St., Kapt. Pepe Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 562,000.00

LOT 5 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 337.5 sqm.
L6 B17 Valeriano St. Kapt Pepe Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 718,000.00

LOT 6 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 337.5 sqm.
L7 B17 Valeriano St., Kapt Pepe Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 718,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 375 sqm.
Floor Area: 154 sqm.
Lot 30/Blk 30 Assisi St.,Kapt. Pepe Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 3,123,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 375 sqm.
L28 B45 Calixtus St., Kapt Pepe Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 892,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 220 sqm.
Lot 12/Blk. 7, Brgy. Daang Sarile
Minimum Bid Price: 225,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 317 sqm.
L 3973-B-3-B-2-C-5-N, # 15 Kalikid Sur
Minimum Bid Price: 265,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 299 sqm.
Floor Area: 135 sqm.
L3973-B-3-B-2-C-5-D, # 15 Kalikid Sur
Minimum Bid Price: 1,126,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 367 sqm.
Lot 8/Block 5 Victoria Park Subd., Bitas
Minimum Bid Price: 523,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 241 sqm.
Lot 18 / Blk 2 Wednesday St. Rig Subd., Brgy. Candad
Minimum Bid Price: 410,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 285 sqm.
Lot 339-C-5-N-8 Nos. 768,769,771, 772 Purok IV San Nicolas Subdvision, Bantug Norte
Minimum Bid Price: 121,000.00

LOT 15 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 620 sqm.
Lot 350-G-1 Sarenas St Sangitan Este
Minimum Bid Price: 2,405,000.00

LOT 16 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,522 sqm.
Floor Area: 118 sqm.
Lot 2240-A #498 Arenas St. (Dama De Noche), Bgry. Mayapyap Sur
Minimum Bid Price: 533,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 324 sqm.
Lot 7 Along Prov'l Road, Bantug Norte
Minimum Bid Price: 1,296,000.00

LOT 18 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 855 sqm.
Lot 3965-A, F Romero St., Kalikid Norte
Minimum Bid Price: 146,000.00

LOT 19 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 443 sqm.
Floor Area: 219 sqm.
Lot 1411-B Paco Roman St. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 6,789,000.00

LOT 20 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 520 sqm.
Floor Area: 116 sqm.
L9Blk K-1#54 Santol St. Villa BenitaSubd
Minimum Bid Price: 1,067,000.00

BONGABON

LOT 21 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,280 sqm.
Lot 510-P & Lot 510-Q Brgy. Macabaclay
Minimum Bid Price: 55,000.00

GEN. NATIVIDAD

LOT 22 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300 sqm.
Lot 4 / Blk 5 Galang Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price: 39,000.00

LLANERA

Lot Area. 1,000 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 66, # 295 Valmonte St., Brgy. Victoria, Pob
Minimum Bid Price: 170,000.00

RIZAL

LOT 24 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,302 sqm.
Lot 1810-C-2, Brgy. San Esteban
Minimum Bid Price: 88,000.00

LOT 25 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,229 sqm.
Lot 15 Blk 6, Brgy Bicos
Minimum Bid Price: 261,000.00

PANTABANGAN

LOT 26 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 470 sqm.
Lot 433, Blk 3, Brgy Malbang
Minimum Bid Price: 60,000.00

LOT 27 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 473 sqm.
Lot 735 Poblacion East
Minimum Bid Price: 81,000.00

LOT 28 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 385 sqm.
Lot 471, Cadena De Amor St., Purok 3, Brgy Malbang
Minimum Bid Price: 33,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 329 sqm.
Lot 1010, Poblacion West
Minimum Bid Price: 63,000.00

SAN JOSE CITY

LOT 30 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 429 sqm.
Lot 1769-A Bonifacio St., Poblacion

LOT 31 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,188 sqm.
Lot 2008-A-3 B Saturnino St., Sibut
Minimum Bid Price: 1,515,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 349 sqm.
Lot 1629-A Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 830,000.00

LOT 33 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 3 Christianville Subd., Abar I
Minimum Bid Price: 570,000.00

LOT 34 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 3 Christianville Subd., Abar I
Minimum Bid Price: 685,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 20,000 sqm.
Lot 1 & Lot 7 Bgy. A. Pascual
Minimum Bid Price: 340,000.00

LOT 36 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 440 sqm.
Lot 1669-A A.O. Pascual St., Pob
Minimum Bid Price: 3,135,000.00

LOT 37 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 198 sqm.
Lot 4 & Lot 5 / Blk 2 Curamen Monte Verde Heights, Barangay Sibut
Minimum Bid Price: 253,000.00

LOT 38 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 360 sqm.
Floor Area: 126 sqm.
Lots 7&8 Blk 15 Molave & Anonas Sts. Josephine Vill.
Minimum Bid Price: 930,000.00

LOT 39 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 115 sqm.
L 2/ B 3 Curamen-Monte Verde Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 219,000.00

CARANGLAN

LOT 40 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,258 sqm.
Lot 8, Brgy. San Agustin
Minimum Bid Price: 130,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 477 sqm.
Lot 2&3, Bonifacio St., Brgy Burgos
Minimum Bid Price: 31,000.00

LOT 42 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm.
Lot 5, Purok 5, Brgy Bantug
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00

LUPAO

LOT 43 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 425 sqm.
Floor Area: 122 sqm.
Lot 11/Blk 14, Carpio St., Pob. West
Minimum Bid Price: 480,000.00

LOT 44 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 720 sqm.
Lot 1024-T-26 & Lot 1024-T-25 Brgy San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price: 62,000.00

LOT 45 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 1,152 sqm.
Lot 1298-F San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price: 148,000.00

MUÑOZ

LOT 46 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,818.75 sqm.
Lot 1678-A, Along Maharlika Hi-Way Brgy Bantug
Minimum Bid Price: 2,738,000.00

LOT 47 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,023 sqm.
Lot 1386-G, Maligaya
Minimum Bid Price: 696,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 1,020 sqm.
Lot 1386-H, Maligaya
Minimum Bid Price: 867,000.00

LOT 49 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 2,168 sqm.
Floor Area: 60 sqm.
Lot 1386-J & Lot 1386-I Maligaya
Minimum Bid Price: 1,997,000.00

LOT 50 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 363 sqm.
Floor Area: 123 sqm.
Lot 4-A-1 San Sebastian St
Minimum Bid Price: 1,240,000.00

LOT 51 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,350 sqm.
L 7-B, Purok Matulungin Brgy Bagong Sikat
Minimum Bid Price: 429,000.00

LOT 52 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,593 sqm.
Lot 1280-B-6-L-6 Gabaldon
Minimum Bid Price: 100,000.00

LOT 53 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 783 sqm.
Lot No 1672-J Maharlika Hi-Way
Minimum Bid Price: 1,075,000.00

TALAVERA

LOT 54 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,849 sqm.
Lot 184-B-7 Barangay Maestrang Kikay
Minimum Bid Price: 295,000.00

LOT 55 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 665 sqm.
Floor Area: 53 sqm.
Lot 48-A-3-B & Lot 48-A-2-A-1-B Interior Brgy San Pascual
Minimum Bid Price: 293,000.00

LOT 56 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 441 sqm.
Lot 801-F, Quezon St., Brgy Maestrang Kikay, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 378,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 383 sqm.
Floor Area: 84 sqm.
Lot 302-B-19 Marcos District, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 440,000.00

LOT 58 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 200 sqm.
Lot 302-B-18 Marcos District, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 170,000.00

LOT 59 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,796 sqm.
Lot 136-A-2, Along Maharlika Hi-Way Brgy. Calipahan
Minimum Bid Price: 1,617,000.00

LOT 60 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 12,211.5 sqm.
Lot 91 Brgy. Bacal Ii, Maharlika Highway
Minimum Bid Price: 4,293,000.00

LOT 61 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,251 sqm.
Lot 1271 Bulac
Minimum Bid Price: 204,000.00

LOT 62 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,616 sqm.
Lot 1300 No. 523 Purok 2 Bulac
Minimum Bid Price: 294,000.00

GUIMBA

LOT 63 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 528 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 4 Bacayao
Minimum Bid Price: 68,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 384 sqm.
Lot 32 / Blk 2 Bdcayao
Minimum Bid Price: 98,000.00

LOT 65 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 384 sqm.
Lot 33 / Blk 2 Bacayao
Minimum Bid Price: 98,000.00

LOT 66 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 384 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 2 Bacayao
Minimum Bid Price: 98,000.00

LOT 67 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 384 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 2 Bacayao
Minimum Bid Price: 98,000.00

LOT 68 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 406 sqm.
Lot 16, Blk 2 Bacayao
Minimum Bid Price: 104,000.00

LOT 69 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 448 sqm.
Lot 34 / Blk 2 Bacayao
Minimum Bid Price: 115,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 5,537 sqm.
Lot 2036-B, Brgy. San Roque
Minimum Bid Price: 360,000.00

LOT 71 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,503 sqm.
Lot 537-C-1, Brgy. Cabaruan
Minimum Bid Price: 141,000.00

LOT 72 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 787 sqm.
Floor Area: 66 sqm.
Lots 1298-A-2 & 1298-B-2 #92 Interior P. Ramos St. Sto. Cristo
Minimum Bid Price: 507,000.00

LOT 73 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,524 sqm.
Lot 2036-E, Brgy. San Roque
Minimum Bid Price: 500,000.00

LOT 74 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,410 sqm.
Lot 1334-C-2-B, Lot 1334-C-2-C, Lot 1334-C-2-D Brgy. Bacayao
Minimum Bid Price: 660,000.00

LOT 75 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 149 sqm.
Lot 1143-A-7, Int. Medina St., San Veronica Dist., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 31,000.00

LOT 76 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 931 sqm.
Lot 3761-D-2 & 3761-D-3, Balingog West
Minimum Bid Price: 98,000.00

STO. DOMINGO

LOT 77 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 394 sqm.
L2352-A #54 Pedro Pascual St Cabugao
Minimum Bid Price: 412,000.00

LOT 78 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 346 sqm.
Lot 3, Prov'L Rd .Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 83,000.00

LOT 79 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 379 sqm.
Lot 4, Prov'L Rd .Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 91,000.00

LOT 80 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 412 sqm.
Lot 5, Prov'L Rd .Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 99,000.00

LOT 81 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 445 sqm.
Lot 6, Prov'L Rd .Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 106,000.00

LOT 82 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 475 sqm.
Lot 2, Prov'L Rd .Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 114,000.00

LOT 83 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 479 sqm.
Lot 7, Prov'L Rd .Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 114,000.00

LOT 84 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 512 sqm.
Lot 8, Prov'L Rd .Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 122,000.00

LOT 85 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 545 sqm.
Lot 9, Prov'L Rd .Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 130,000.00

LOT 86 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 578 sqm.
Lot 10, Prov'L Rd .Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 138,000.00

LOT 87 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 792 sqm.
Lot 1, Prov'L Rd .Malasin
Minimum Bid Price: 472,000.00

LOT 88 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 325 sqm.
Lot 313-F Sto. Rosario
Minimum Bid Price: 152,000.00

LOT 89 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 650 sqm.
Floor Area: 75 sqm.
L 313-B & L 313-D Brgy. Sto. Rosario
Minimum Bid Price: 424,000.00

LOT 90 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 5,348 sqm.
Floor Area: 300 sqm.
L2778-A P Pascual & J Garcia Sts. Pob
Minimum Bid Price: 5,442,000.00

LOT 91 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 4,831 sqm.
Lot 3334-C Dolores
Minimum Bid Price: 159,000.00

LOT 92 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 741 sqm.
Lot 3334-B Dolores
Minimum Bid Price: 189,000.00

LOT 93 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 15,499 sqm.
Lot 827, Brgy. Gen Luna
Minimum Bid Price: 349,000.00

LICAB

LOT 94 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 5,083 sqm.
Lot A, Sitio Bantug Na Munti, San Juan
Minimum Bid Price: 331,000.00

STA. ROSA

LOT 95 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,500 sqm.
Lot 2727-C-2-A, Brgy. Mapalad
Minimum Bid Price: 255,000.00

LOT 96 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 191,100 sqm.
Lot Nos. 2197, 2203, 2202 Bgy Mapalad
Minimum Bid Price: 1,494,000.00

JAEN

LOT 97 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,216 sqm.
Lot 2575, Burgos St. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 207,000.00

LOT 98 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 2,759 sqm.
Floor Area: 190 sqm.
Lot 2, Prov'L Rd. Cor. Nueva St. Pob
Minimum Bid Price: 3,201,000.00

GAPAN

LOT 99 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300 sqm.
Lot-4-A-1A, #04 Sto Cristo
Minimum Bid Price: 255,000.00

LOT 100 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 372 sqm.
Lot 3925 Gen Tinio & Del Corro Sts. San Lorenzo, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,395,000.00

LOT 101 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 405 sqm.
Lot 3922 Gen Tinio & Del Corro Sts. San Lorenzo, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,519,000.00

LOT 102 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,171 sqm.
Lot 1&2 Gen Tinio & Del Corro Sts. San Lorenzo, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price: 4,392,000.00

LOT 103 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 244 sqm.
Floor Area. 58 sqm.
Lot 14, Blk 7 P. Cruz Subd. Brgy. Mangino
Minimum Bid Price: 204,000.00

LOT 104 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 378 sqm.
Floor Area: 118 sqm.
Lot 568-A, # 144 Mangino
Minimum Bid Price: 360,000.00

LOT 105 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 772 sqm.
L 3571-F, Brgy. Putting Tubig, Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price: 66,000.00

LOT 106 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 90,000 sqm.
Lot 4728-C-6, Sitio Makalulang Brgy. Makabaklay
Minimum Bid Price: 338,000.00

LOT 107 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 396 sqm.
Floor Area: 128 sqm.
Lot 8-F.750 De Guzman Subd. Mangino
Minimum Bid Price: 584,000.00

LOT 108 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 269 sqm.
Floor Area: 30 sqm.
Lot 504-I-6 P. Cruz Brgy. Mangino
Minimum Bid Price: 138,000.00

SAN ANTONIO

LOT 109 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,328 sqm.
Lot 1059-A-1 San Mariano West
Minimum Bid Price: 850,000.00

LOT 110 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 429 sqm.
Lot 805-E, Brgy. San Mariano
Minimum Bid Price: 255,000.00

SAN LEONARDO

LOT 111 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 645 sqm.
Floor Area: 108 sqm.
Lot 717, Brgy San Bartolome (Burgos)
Minimum Bid Price: 246,000.00

LOT 112 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,991 sqm.
LOT B-1, Brgy. Tabuating Maharlika Hiway
Minimum Bid Price: 592,000.00

LOT 113 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 360 sqm.
Lot 2976-F, Castellano
Minimum Bid Price: 270,000.00

SAN ISIDRO

LOT 114 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 204 sqm.
L3082 Ma Cristina Village Brgy. Malapit
Minimum Bid Price: 226,000.00

LOT 115 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,186 sqm.
Floor Area: 60 sqm.
Lot 1-C, # 279 P Carmen St. Brgy. Alua
Minimum Bid Price: 504,000.00

CABIAO

LOT 116 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 8,622 sqm.
L334, Old Prov'l. Road San Fernando Sur
Minimum Bid Price: 1,017,000.00

LOT 117 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 882 sqm.
Lot 4, Entablado
Minimum Bid Price: 187,000.00

LOT 118 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 726 sqm.
Floor Area: 150 sqm.
Lot 438-F-2, Gapan Olongapo Rd, San Fernando Sur
Minimum Bid Price: 683,000.00

LOT 119 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 2,513 sqm.
Floor Area: 120 sqm.
Lot 721-A-1, Brgy. Entablado
Minimum Bid Price: 378,000.00

LOT 120 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 408 sqm.
Lot 198-A-9-G & Lot 198-A-2, San Antonio, Bagong Buhay
Minimum Bid Price: 190,000.00

LOT 121 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 443 sqm.
Floor Area: 103 sqm.
Lot 3-A, Brgy. San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price: 555,000.00

PEÑARANDA

LOT 122 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 13,710 sqm
Lot 3172 San Jose
Minimum Bid Price: 52,000.00

GUARANTEED FINANCING • FIXED INTEREST UP TO 10 YEARS • 10% DOWNPAYMENT FOR LOTS • 25% DOWNPAYMENT FOR DEVELOPED PROPERTIES
ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". PROPERTIES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
SHOW MONEY: PhP25,000.00 CASH or MC •PLEASE CONFIRM ATTENDANCE TO ENSURE SEATS AND PARKING
PLEASE CALL AMG-PNB INQUIRY DESK: Tel. no. (02) 832-2562; (02)834-1493; (02) 526-3131 Locals: 4539 Ashley; 7212 Yen; 4537 Ross; 4538 Vanes; 4726 Becky ; • Ross 0920-602-6933 ; Vanes 0918-415-0999 Ashley 0916-579-5478; ; Veronica (044) 463-3365; Roshena(044) 464-1916 • DOMESTIC TOLL FREE NO. 1-800-10-555-8888

CBRE
CB RICHARD ELLIS
AUCTION MANAGER

Food Terminal Inc.

AVAILABLE AREA FOR LEASE AT FTI - SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE
Lots 85 - A & B
Floor Area - 4,500 m² @ P130.00/m²/mo.
Lot Area - 10,012 m² @ P 73.50/m²/mo.
Visit us at Marketing and Estate Management Department
2nd Floor, New Admin Bldg., FTI Complex, Taguig City
or call at (632) 838-3177, 838-4301 loc. 2240/2213
or E-mail us at meld@fti.gov.ph
website: fti.gov.ph

WANTED:
160 Security Guards Male & Female
Posting at Pagcor Casinos in Metro Manila & Tagaytay City

- At least 2nd year college (72 units)
- 5'6" in height for Security Guard
- 5'3" in height for Lady Guard
- With valid Security Guard License
- 21-30 years old

Apply at:
Royal Security Agency Inc.
8130 Diovic Bldg., Dr. A. Santos Avenue,
(former Sucat Road) San Dionisio,
Parañaque City (near Olivarez Gen. Hosp.)
Tel. No. 826-3892/0920-9138311

New livelihood project for OFW families to be launched in radio program

A NEW livelihood project for the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families will be launched in the special episode of TIRIS (acronym of Task Force against Illegel Recruitment and Investment Scams) radio program this Saturday (Aug. 14) which is broadcast over dzRJ 810 AM, it was announced yesterday by the Pamilyang OFW-SME Network-Foundation, Inc. (POFW-SMENFI).

The Project, entitled "Programang Pangkabuhayan para sa Pamilyang OFWs," aims to transform the majority of the OFW families into entrepreneurs.

Malaysian entrepreneur Chong Ken Foo will explain how the OFW families will earn big income.

Anchored by Arriola, Atty. J. Oswald Lorenzo and Philip Baldo, the public service program is sponsored by the Filipino Seafarers' Family Expo and Forum 2004 and Pamilyang OFWs-SMEs Housing and Home Essentials Trade Fair 2004 which are both slated on Nov. 12-14 at Megatrade Hall 1 of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

The OFW and SME families who would like to be a part of the program may contact the POFW-SMENFI Secretariat with tel. nos. 912-58-03 and 437-16-60 or the 24-hour text messaging hotline 0916-7421768.

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1) Melanie Demate	Unknown	Domingo Adorsa SS#03-2839026-9	March 28, 2003
2) Angelina P. Azcuna	Margosatubig Zamboanga del Sur	Manolito M. Azcuna SS#10-0066619-7	April 3, 2000
3) Remedios L. Bayuga, Noel & Anastacia	695 Tambo, Parañaque	Teofilo Bayuga SS#03-2745311-0	September 21, 2001
4) Leonora Cabanag	70 A. Quirino, Davao City	Enrique G. Cabanag SS#09-0647024-2	April 7, 2004
5) Teodoro Cristobal	Los Baños, Laguna	Edna Cabral SS#04-0352753-3	March 18, 2001
6) Maria Lourdes Q. Castillo	Brgy. Caingin, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	Fidelino B. Castillo SS#03-4915970-6	February 14, 2004
7) Aileen G. Celino	B11 L4 Ph. 1, Maravilla Subd., Gen. Trias, Cavite	Daniel V. Celino SS#33-3499199-2	July 5, 2004
8) Alicia S. Cerro	Brgy. Telegrafo, Tolosa, Leyte	Francisco C. Cerro SS#06-0270069-8	July 9, 2004
9) Florencia Villanueva	Banbanon, Asuncion, Davao del Norte	Jesus R. Creer SS#09-0210437-6	June 3, 2004
10) Florinda Guanao Dagupan	Cebu City	Demosthenes V. Dagupan SS#10-0246141-3	March 30, 2003
11) Lodivinia S. Delas Alas	1267 P. Sanchez St., Baclaran	Ricardo M. Delas Alas SS#03-0249596-0	June 18, 2004
12) Eden Padolina	Unknown	Ronaldo Agbay Delgaco SS#04-3091724-2	June 2, 2001
13) Manuel T. Dequito	Negros Occidental	Salvacion R. Dequito SS#03-6360402-0	June 25, 2004
14) Thelma Caseria	#5 Filtration St., Sta. Rita, Olongapo City	Rogelio F. Fantilanan SS#03-1860263-7	December 23, 2003
15) Ricardo Gali	Unknown	Leonardo Gali SS#33-3113196-2	February 14, 2004
16) Lydia Nacua Garcia Ledia Nacua	Marbel, Matalam, North Cotabato	Jesus Garcia SS#09-0431852-6	April 12, 2004
17) Nilda Golez	140 San Pedro St., Palo, Leyte	Guadencio Golez SS#06-0594710-2	April 9, 2004
18) Emeteria Biala	42 Bliss, Bulan, Sorsogon	Armando G. Gomez SS#03-1629026-1	June 30, 2004
19) Balbina Jagape	Unknown	Isidro Jagape SS#08-0122514-9	November 17, 2003
20) Horta	Unknown	Recaredo Leria SS#07-0236255-4	March 2, 2004
21) Lydia Acopiado	Unknown	Juanita Lingling SS#03-4906212-3	January 9, 2003
22) Florentina Bantang Malabanan	Olongapo City	Analyn Malabanan SS#33-3208400-5	December 21, 2003
23) Peti Manocay	Unknown	Ernesto V. Manocay SS#03-2391597-9	May 23, 2004
24) Dolores Lazaro	1 Cruz Apt., Cortez St., Taytay, Rizal	Rodrigo Ola SS#03-2264462-3	May 18, 2004
25) Pingping Padilla Norman Padilla	Basak, Maasin City, Southern Leyte	Quirino Padilla SS#09-0451368-0	April 18, 2004
26) Arcely Rosales	Araneta Subd., Q.C.	Pedro Pascua SS#03-5936360-5	October 18, 2003
27) Esther Banaag	Bicutan, Taguig, M.M.	Reynaldo Roldan, Sr. SS#03-2483341-6	June 2, 2004
28) Vienega Kamabin	Campo F., Baguio City	Jose A. Salas SS#01-0210531-1	April 1, 2004
29) Elena V. Sanchez	165 I. Lopez St., Mandaluyong	Felicito Sanchez SS#03-6348782-3	July 2, 2004
30) Perla Marinduque Ramos	Sto. Niño, Villareal Samar	Florencio O. Tan SS#03-1952841-9	February 16, 2002

-Nothing Follows-

(PDI – August 14, 2004)

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
G/F MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. 435-3366, 920-5521 loc. 3600, 3615, 3616

INVITATION TO BID

The Maynilad Water Services, Inc. is inviting interested parties to undertake the supply and delivery of various sizes of **SADDLE CLAMP** for different types of pipes.

Diameter range :50mm to 300mm
Tap Size :ISO7-3/4" to ISO7 -2" Female Thread
As per MWSI Technical Specifications and Terms and Conditions.
Section 32007-00/01 Oct. 01 - Service Saddle

Interested suppliers/manufacturers can obtain further information and secure a complete set of pre-qualification forms, Technical Specifications and Terms and Conditions (Bid Documents) upon payment of a non-refundable documents fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos Only (P1,000.00) payable to MWSI, at the following address.

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Basement, MWSI Office, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.
Tel. No. 435-3366 Fax No. 928-2303 / 433-5629

Deadline for submission of accomplished pre-qualification documents is on **August 25, 2004**. Only applicants who successfully pre-qualify shall be invited to submit their FINANCIAL PROPOSAL for this bidding. Pre-qualified and disqualified applicants shall be notified in writing.

(Sgd.) **IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ**
SAVP, Corporate Logistics

(PDI – August 14 & 15, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Bukidnon
MUNICIPALITY OF KALILANGAN
BIDS AND AWARD COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of the Municipality of Kalilangan, Province of Bukidnon, invites interested suppliers for Eligibility and to Bid on the **CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING PHASE II.** Listing of such items listed below.

NAME OF PROJECT	Purchase/Delivery of various construction materials of Municipal Hall Building Phase II.
PROJECT LOCATION	West Poblacion, Kalilangan, Bukidnon
DELIVERY AREA	Municipal Hall Premises
APPROVED BUDGET OF THE CONTRACT	P3,256,819.40
SOURCE OF FUND	TRUST FUND
CONTRACT DURATION	Immediate delivery (Maximum of 15 working calendar days) upon receipt of contract

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	DATES
1. NEWSPAPERS PUBLICATION	1st – August 7, 2004 / 2nd – August 14, 2004
2. POSTING AT THE CONSPICUOUS PLACE IN THE PREMISES OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF KALILANGAN	August 6-18, 2004
3. PERIOD FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BID DOCUMENTS	August 6-18, 2004
4. PRE-BID CONFERENCE	August 20, 2004 – starts 8:30 a.m.
5. ELIGIBILITY CHECK	August 26, 2004 – starts at 9:00 a.m.
6. DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF BIDS	August 27, 2004 – not later than 5:00 p.m.
7. OPENING OF BIDS IN SEALED ENVELOPE	August 28, 2004
8. PLACE/TIME	Municipal Hall Building – 2nd floor 9:00 AM

ITEM NO.	QTY	UNIT	PARTICULARS -	UNIT COST	TOTAL AMOUNT
1	35.00	cu.m.	Concrete Tie Beams		
2	957.60	cu.m.	Embankment		
3	147.13	cu.m.	Concrete Flooring		
4	970.41	sq.m.	Concrete Walling		
5	873.21	sq.m.	Concrete Plastering		
6	17.34	cu.m.	Concrete Stair		
7	150.00	L.M.	Plumbing		
8	150.00	L.M.	RCPC Drainage		
9	5,550.00	L.M.	Electrical Wirings		
10	469.60	L.M.	Pre-Cast Concrete Moulding (INCLUDING INSTALLATION)		
11	181.95	sq.m.	Steel Casement Window Frame		

Complete set of eligibility requirements and bid documents maybe obtained from the BAC Secretariat at Municipal's Mayor Office, Municipal Hall, Kalilangan, Bukidnon, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P3,000.00. Duly accomplished eligibility form shall be submitted in sealed envelope addressed to BAC Chairman c/o BAC Secretariat.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of 1% (cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft, irrevocable letter of credit), 1.5% (bank guarantee), 2.5% (surety bond) of the total APPROVED BUDGET OF THE CONTRACT (ABC).

The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject all bids thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids or to award any work that it considered most advantageous to the Municipality of Kalilangan.

The provision of R.A. 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations, shall govern all particulars relative to eligibility, bid bond, performance, bid evaluation and award of contract.

(Sgd.) **VICTOR R. ANSUS**
MAA-1/GSO DESIGNATE
BAC SECRETARIAT HEAD

(PDI-August 7 & 14, 2004)

KING FAISAL SPECIALIST HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH CENTRE
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

URGENTLY NEEDS :

13 PHARMACISTS

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy or Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an accredited College of Pharmacy.

SALARY OFFER: SR3,200 (US$853.33 per month)

FRINGE BENEFITS:
Annual bonus equal to one (1) month salary to be paid at the second year contract and subsequent contract years

Furnished, single hospital housing for female employees
Relocation allowance at initial hire to defray relocation costs in the amount of SR500
Medical care provided free of charge. No dental
Annual leave of 36 days per service year, at the rate of 3 days per month
Seventeen (17) annuals paid holidays (7 eid Al-fitr & 10 Haj holiday) to be taken anytime during the service year in coordination with the department
Severance pay equal to 15 days salary for each subsequent year of service

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:
Minimum of two (2) years experience in hospital pharmacy practice preferable.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS must PERSONALLY register and submit detailed resumé with job descriptions, certificates of employment/training, photo copy of college diploma, board license / certificate, two (2) letters of reference from previous/current supervisor., No Objection Certificate (for ex-Saudi) PRC card and two (2) pcs. current 2 x 2 picture, between 8-4 PM, for the issuance of KFSH Application Form and Skills Checklist:

PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION
MANPOWER REGISTRY DIVISION, WINDOW I
Ground Floor, Blas F. Ople Bldg. (formerly POEA Bldg.,) Left Wing Lobby
EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City

EMPLOYER IN TOWN TO CONDUCT INTERVIEW STARTING AUGUST 17, 2004

NOTE: MAILED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED.
Arrange in a cream folder all xerox copies chronologically in accordance with the above-mentioned requirements. Bring original documents arranged in similar manner for verification

"Mag-ingat sa mga Illegal Recruiters"

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
CENTRAL LUZON REGIONAL OFFICE
Cabanatuan City

NOTICE OF SALE THROUGH MARKET DETERMINED PRICING (SMDP)

The National Food Authority, Central Luzon Regional Office, Cabanatuan City invites all interested NFA licensed grains businessmen to participate in the Sale thru Market Determined Pricing (SMDP) for the following imported rice (TGER 32) of 7,758 MT or 155,178 bags more or less in the provinces of Region III, to wit:

Lot #	Province	Warehouse	Location	Volume In Bags	Indicative Price Per Bag
I	Bulacan	GID 1	Burol 1st, Balagtas	8,265	
		GID 2	Burol 1st, Balagtas	39,658	
		GID 2	Sta. Rita, San Miguel	2,077	
			Total	50,000	P750.00
II	Nueva Ecija	Whse No. 12	Cabanatuan City	14,379	
	Bataan	GID 2	Balanga	10,621	
	Pampanga	GID 1/11-Sindalan	San Fernando	25,000	
			Total	50,000	P750.00
III	Tarlac	Aguso 1	Aguso	4,920	
		Aguso 5	Aguso	17,740	
		GID	Jatmin, Concepcion	17,340	
	Zambales	GID	Iba	14,687	
		Wawandue	Subic	491	
			Total	55,178	P750.00
			Grand Total	155,178	P750.00

The sale is on a per lot, "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis, and open to all NFA accredited and/or licensed grains businessmen. The offeror shall be required to post a bid bond equivalent to 10% of the total value offered in the form of cash, and/or manager's/cashier's check payable to NFA issued by a reputable bank in Cabanatuan City.

Only prospective bidders who have submitted the following requirements to the RBAC are qualified to participate:

1. Letter of Intent to participate
2. Original and one (1) Xerox copy of NFA license/registration
3. In case of representative, a duly notarized authorization from the Owner/Chairman certifying that the representative is presently connected with the company and authorized to represent the company to participate in the SMDP and other activities pertinent thereto.

The SMDP shall be conducted at the NFA-Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Central Luzon Regional Office (CLRO), Cabanatuan City on the following schedule:

ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME
1. Issuance of Invitation to Bid and Tender Forms	August 19, 20 & 23, 2004	8:00 am - 5:00 pm
2. Pre-SMDP Conference	August 24, 2004	10:00 am
3. SMDP Proper	August 24, 2004	2:00 pm

The SMDP terms and conditions and Tender Forms can be secured at the RBAC Secretariat at NFA Regional Office, Cabanatuan City after paying a non-refundable registration fee of P500.00. For further inquiries, please contact the RPBAC Chairman at telephone nos. (044) 463-1167, (044) 463-1168 and (044)-463-1233.

NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such bids which in its judgment are most reasonable and advantageous to the NFA. The decision of the Committee as confirmed by the Regional Director shall be deemed final.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN J. RESIDE**
RBAC Chairman
Asst. Regional Director

(PDI – August 14 & 15, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY
METRO MANILA

IN RE: PETITION FOR AUTHORITY TO ACT)
AS GENERAL SALES AGENT FOR PALAU)
MICRONESIA AIR (PHILS.) INC.) CAB CASE NO. 25025
ASIA PACIFIC CHARTERING (PHILS.) INC.,)
Petitioner.)
x - x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 776 as amended, notice is hereby given that **ASIA PACIFIC CHARTERING (PHILS) INC.** has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) a petition for authority to act as General Sales Agent for Palau Micronesia Air (Phils.) Inc. The initial hearing of the above entitled case will be held on **August 31, 2004 at 2:30** p.m. at the Conference Room of the CAB, Old Mia Road, Pasay City, Metro Manila before the undersigned Hearing Officer, at which hearing, the petitioner shall present evidence.

The petitioner is hereby required to have this Notice of Hearing published at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation.

Parties opposed to the granting of the petition must file their written opposition on or before the date of the hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the petitioner, and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be proper under the premises. Failure on the part of any interested party to file its opposition on time and appear at the hearing shall be construed as a waiver of its right to be heard and the Civil Aeronautics Board shall proceed to hear and decide this petition on its merit.

Let a copy of the Petition and this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.

09 August 2004
Pasay City, Philippines

(Sgd) **FREDERICK G. VILLARIN**
Hearing Officer

(PDI-August 14, 21 & 28, 2004)

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TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance
San Vicente Biñan, Laguna

August 10, 2004

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Transmission Corporation (NTC) South Luzon Operation & Maintenance invites interested Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the proposed project/undertaking:

Contract Code/Title	Location	Duration	Approved Budget for the Contract	Source of Budget	License and Registration Particulars issued by PCAB
TRANS-04-RPFBS-EG-19-Rehabilitation of Perimeter Fence at Biñan Sub Station	Biñan, Laguna	Eighty Four (84) Calendar Days	Php884,594.75	Internal Cash Generation (ICG)	At least *"Category D & C - General Building"* At least *"Small B - Building & Industrial Plant"*

Prospective bidders must have at least completed a single contract similar to the contract to be bid which involves furnishing of all labor, materials, supplies, tools, equipment, supervision and other incidentals necessary for the construction of all types of buildings, i.e. housing, schools, hospitals, market, multi-storey buildings, airport terminal and other related structures including construction of perimeter fence, which value must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Applications for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by NTC in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding; and shall be subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting **August 14, 2004 - September 03, 2004** at the: Regional Contracts Management Office, NTC Biñan, Laguna, Telefax No.: 520-8213 and E-mail Address: (grlistano@transco.ph) upon presentation of Letter of Intent, Original PCAB License and a payment of non-refundable fee of P600.00 per copy.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Eligibility Forms documents and statements shall be **on or before 9:00 a.m. of September 08, 2004** and shall be submitted at the office and address mentioned above. Opening and Eligibility Screening shall be held on the same date and time specified. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this infrastructure project shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "R.A. 9184".

NTC reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communication should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **G. R. LISTANO**
Dept. Manager, PSMD North/
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Aug. 14, 2004)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue,
Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

DepED
Telefax 631-9640
Direct Line 633-9342
Trunk Line 632-1361 local 2221/2007
E-mail Address: [illegible]
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education (DepEd) through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites contractors classified and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as "Small B" to apply for eligibility and if found eligible to bid for the Repair and Renovation of Various DepEd Offices as follows:

Project Description :
- a) Renovation of Proposed PFSED Office located at the 4th Floor Bonifacio Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City
- b) Repair/Renovation for the Proposed Procurement Service Office located at the 5th Floor Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City
- c) Repair of Roofing of Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City

Approved Budget : P2,728,147.52

Interested contractors shall submit their Letter of Intent together with their application for eligibility to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee not later than 5:00 p.m. of **August 25, 2004**.

Bid Documents will be issued to eligible contractors starting **September 6 to 10, 2004** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Building, DepEd Complex, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,500.00.

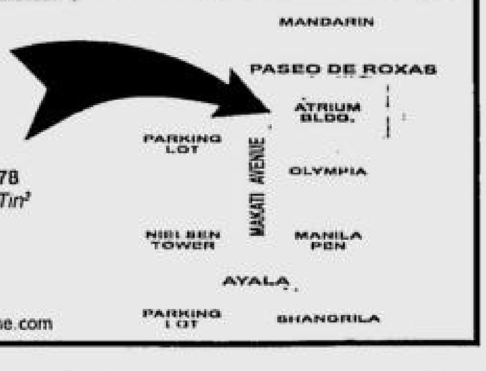
A pre-bid conference will be held on **September 13, 2004**, 10:00 a.m. at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on **September 27, 2004** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI - Aug. 14 & 21, 2004)

ATRIUM OFFICE
GROUND FLOOR,
ATRIUM BLDG.,
MAKATI AVENUE,
MAKATI CITY
TEL. NOS. 811-4370 /
811-4361 / 811-4012 / 892-5578
Contact Persons: Emy, Ning & Tin²



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VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

RDS photo exhibit, discounts up to Aug. 15

CHECK out Robinsons Department Store's (RDS) Exclusive Labels Fashion Exhibit and see the many stylish possibilities you can create at prices within your reach. The exhibit is ongoing until Aug. 15 at the following RDS branches: Robinsons Galleria, Ermita, Novaliches, Imus, Dasmarinas, Lipa, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Metro East, and Starmills, Pampanga.

And to help you get started shopping for a new wardrobe, RDS is offering special discounts on its Exclusive Labels until Aug. 15. Take advantage of a 10-percent discount on regular items and as much as 50 percent off on other merchandise.

Be the toast of the campus with Liberte's trendy and casual collection gimmicks. Julia for the young working woman has updated classics, casual to semi-formal wear and great pieces for the office and a night out in town. To complete the look, there is the Julia Shoes & Bags collection that offers high-quality sandals, mules and assorted ladies bags. Julia Plus is the brand to buy for big women with a flair for fashion. For those who love easy and relaxed apparel while lounging around the house, there is Nitelites. For men, Portside is perfect for campus wear and gimmicks and for young male professionals, it also has office wear such as polo shorts.

There are also RDS Exclusive Labels for children like All About Kids, G Company and B+Active. Footloose is the brand to choose for affordable slip-ons for men, women and children.

For more fashion inspiration and store information, log on to www.rds.com.ph.

BITS Clips

Model units at Heritage Homes

MOLDEX Realty Marketing Inc (MRMI) the exclusive marketing arm of Moldex Realty Inc has announced the availability for viewing of its model units at Heritage Homes Meycauayan Phase 7. The house packages are all single-detached with firewall and with floor areas of 30, 35 and 36 sq.m. Buyers may choose either a basic unit or one with furnishings. Monthly amortization may be as low as P3,975.40 for 30 years. Heritage Homes Meycauayan is developed in a 70-hectare property that is close to the North Luzon Expressway on Brgy. Pari Road in Meycauayn, Bulacan. The newly-developed phase 7, where the single-detached units are located is also near the short cut to Loma de Gato, Marilao, Bulacan. The project is fully-developed with complete amenitites. The house packages may be acquired through in-house or Pag-Ibig financing. Interested parties may contact Vanessa or Marion at (02) 373-7391 or (02) 373-8888. MRMI's north office is located at G/F Moldex Buildig, Ligaya Street cor. West Avenue, Quezon City.

Searca graduate scholarship program

THE SOUTHEAST Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca) is inviting applications from qualified Filipinos for first-year graduate scholarship (MS and PhD) in agriculture and related fields for school year 2005-2006. Applicants must submit their applications to the Commission on Higher Education (Ched). The list of applicants accompanied by a complete set of requirements must be received at CHED not later than Aug. 15. The list of requirements for application as well as the Searca application form and the required forms for applying for admission to the graduate study programs of universities where Searca scholars may study may be downloaded from http://web.searca.org/GSD_howtoapply.asp. For more information about the Searca graduate scholarship program, visit http://web.searca.org/grad_scholarship.asp.

Dengue Awareness Month in RITM

THE RESEARCH Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM), the research arm of the Department of Health and one of the referral center for infectious diseases in the country observes Dengue Awareness Month in August. It has lined up the following activities: photo exhibits, scientific lecture, research seminar and a fun run. This will be culminated by a program to be participated by all departments of the institute. The activities is spearheaded by the RITM Dengue Study Group headed by Dr. Rose Z. Capeding, and its members Dr. Fem Paladin, Dr. Emily Bomasang, Dr. Coco Lupisan, Ms. Ann Bautista, Dr. Beth Carrier, Ms. Ester Cruz, Ms. Edelwisa Segubre, Dr. Vicky Tallo and Dr. Fidel Malvas, Jr. Consultants are Dr. Nelia Salazar and Dr. Sally Gatchalian. The Institute's medical director is Dr. Remigio M. Olveda.

See'eMall! AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA & GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU

AT THE CENTER

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
GLOBE FAMILY DAY August 15, 2004	IMPERIAL CIRCUS LIVE! August 13 to 15, 2004	FURNITURE EXHIBIT August 2 to 15, 2004

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES featuring ACOUSTIC JIVE August 14, 7:00 to 10:00pm	MERK'S HAPPY HOUR: Mae Main Feature: ARETHA w/ the SOUL'D OUT BAND

Onstage

Rep's Globe Theater presents PINOCCHIO

August 7 to December 12

EXPO

TRADE HALL FOR EXHIBITS, EVENTS AND MORE!

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AYALA CINEMAS

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4		GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
THX 1 THE VILLAGE	1 A CINDERELLA STORY	1 A CINDERELLA STORY	5 GARFIELD	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 A CINDERELLA STORY 1:55, 3:50, 5:45, 7:40, 9:35, 11:30	1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 A CINDERELLA STORY	2 COLLATERAL	2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	6 THE VILLAGE	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 THE VILLAGE 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, 12:00	2 THE WHOLE 10 YARDS
3 COLLATERAL	3 THE VILLAGE	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 COLLATERAL 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	7 CATWOMAN	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 ETERNAL SUNSHINE 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30	3 COLLATERAL
4 GARFIELD	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	4 I, ROBOT		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 GARFIELD 2:35, 4:20, 6:05, 7:50, 9:35, 11:20	4 PRINCE & ME
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU				GUARANTEED SEATS 5 COLLATERAL 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15	5 GARFIELD

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:40, 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40
2 THE VILLAGE 11:20, 1:20, 3:35, 5:50, 8:05

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now that i have you

John Lloyd Cruz Bea Alonzo

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NOW THAT I HAVE YOU is Now Showing at Ayala Cinemas
For screening schedule, call 729-7777. MTRCB Rating: General Patronage

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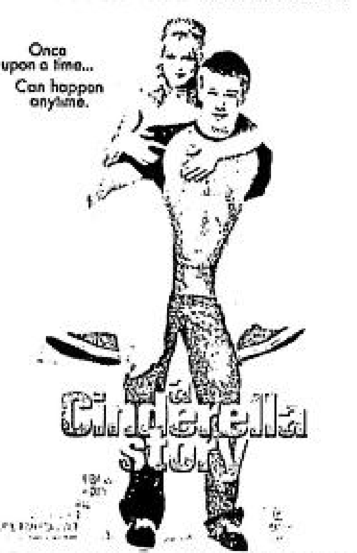
NOW SHOWING AT AYALA CINEMAS

For screening schedule, pls. call 729-7777

MTRCB Rating: General Patronage

Carl's Jr. Globe Facialhaus Bioessence AYALA CINEMAS AYALA MALLS LoveMall!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A Cinderella Story

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Crazy
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Greenbelt 3 Park
August 20 8p.m.

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August 21 7p.m.

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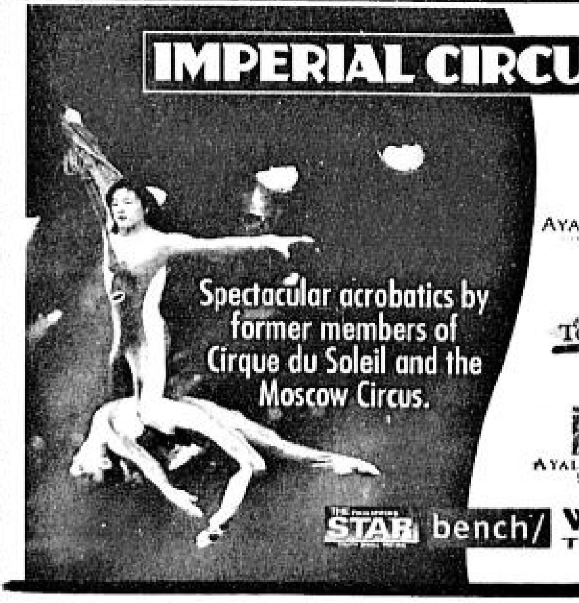
CHEVROLET Globe EMI AYALA CENTER TOWN LoveMall!



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August 6, 5PM, 7PM
August 7 & 8, 1PM, 3PM, 5PM
Glorietta Activity Center
Customer Service Hotline: Glorietta: 752-7272

ALABANG TOWN
August 13-15, 2004
11AM, 3PM, 6PM
Activity Center
Customer Service Hotline: 842-2782 / 772-1860

AYALA CENTER CEBU
August 20, 11AM, 4PM, 7PM
August 21, 11AM, 3PM, 6PM
August 22, 11:30AM, 3PM, 6PM
Customer Service Hotline: (032) 231-5342 loc 324

STAR bench/ WEGA THEATRE Globe AYALA MALLS LoveMall!

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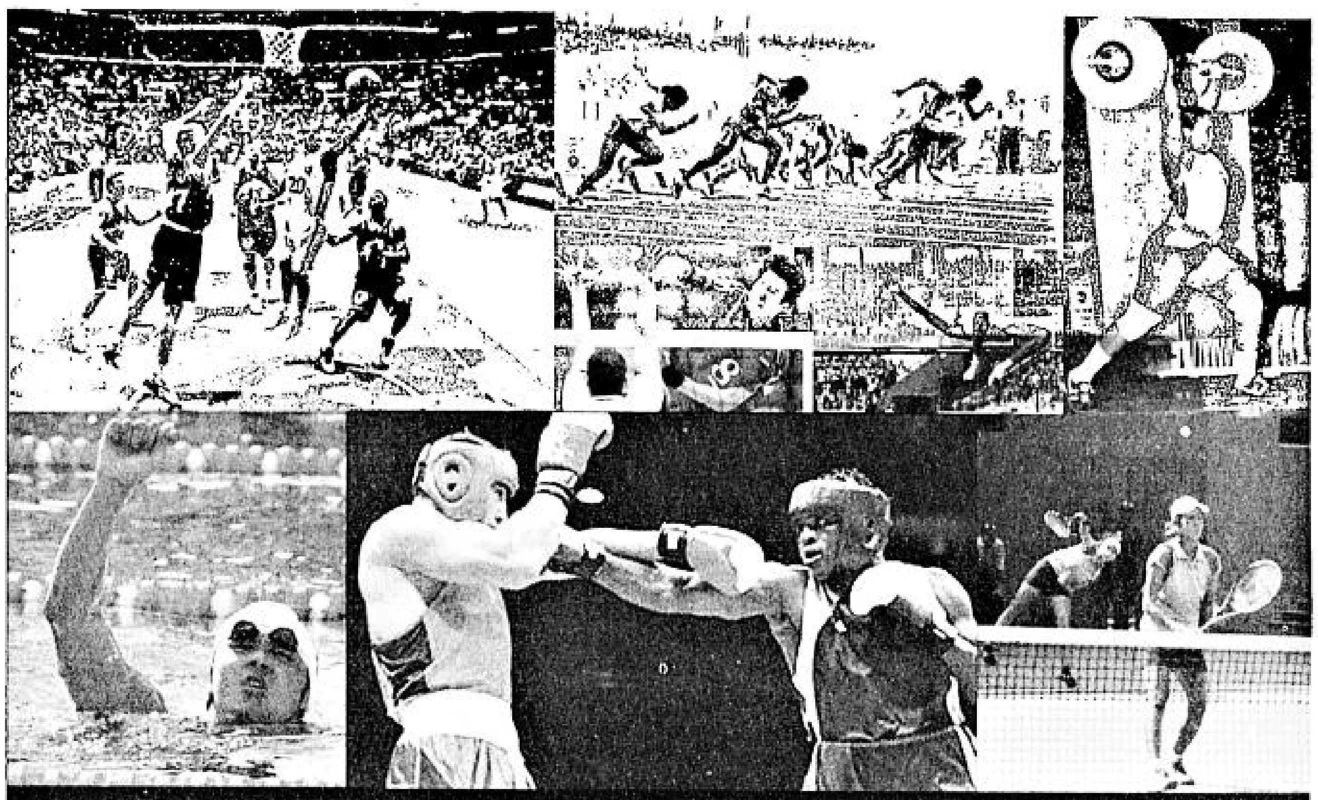
AYALA MALLS

LoveMall!



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NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA

632-9115 to 16

Cinema	Movie	Schedule
CINEMA 1 THX	THE VILLAGE	11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:30
2	A CINDERELLA STORY	10:30, 12:25, 2:20, 4:15, 6:10, 8:05, 10:00
3	GARFIELD	11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
4	COLLATERAL	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
5	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	10.35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
6	THE VILLAGE	11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
7	SYLVIA	11:00, 1:20, 3:30, 5.40, 7:50, 10:00
8	ETERNAL SUNSHINE	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
9	CATWOMAN	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
10	I, ROBOT	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA

536-7809 to 12

Cinema	Movie	Schedule
1	THE VILLAGE	11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:20, 10:00
2	GARFIELD	11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40
3	A CINDERELLA STORY	10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:00
4	ETERNAL SUNSHINE	11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:40
5	DEAD PEOPLE	11:15, 1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40
6	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
7	COLLATERAL	10:10, 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:00

METRO EAST

682-8193/99 / 682-8280

Cinema	Movie	Schedule
1	I, ROBOT	11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00
2	CATWOMAN	10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
3	THE VILLAGE	12:15, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:35
4	COLLATERAL	10:45, 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 9:00
5	GARFIELD	10:50, 12.50, 2.50, 4:50, 6.50, 9:00
6	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	10:10, 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:35
7	A CINDERELLA STORY	10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
8	KARELASYON	10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4.50, 6.50, 9:00

NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW

935-3229 / 31

Cinema	Movie	Schedule
1	COLLATERAL	12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:30
2	THE VILLAGE	10:20, 12:25, 2:30, 4:35, 6:40, 8:45
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30
4	GARFIELD	10:30, 12:10, 1:50, 3:30, 5:10, 6:50, 8:30
5	A CINDERELLA STORY	11:00, 1:20, 3.40, 6.00, 8:30
6	CATWOMAN	11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40
7	KARELASYON	11:00, 12:55, 2:50, 4:45, 6:40, 8:35
8	I, ROBOT	11:00, 1:15, 3:30

Citisquare MALABON

288-0985/2575

Cinema	Movie
1	COLLATERAL
2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3	A CINDERELLA STORY
4	THE VILLAGE

CAINTA

240-4661

Cinema	Movie
1	THE VILLAGE
2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3	A CINDERELLA STORY
4	COLLATERAL

STA. ROSA

(049)837-0907

Cinema	Movie
1	COLLATERAL
2	GARFIELD
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4	THE VILLAGE
5	MAKAMUNDO

LIPA

757-3664 / 312-5870

Cinema	Movie
1	WEREWOLF
2	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
3	A CINDERELLA STORY
4	KAINAN SA HIGHWAY
5	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

DASMARIÑAS

852-2125 / 416-4332

Cinema	Movie
1	COLLATERAL
2	THE VILLAGE
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4	MAKAMUNDO
5	WEREWOLF

STARMILLS

Sn Fernando Pampanga

875-1927 / 961-5270

Cinema	Movie
1	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
2	PERLAS
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4	DEAD PEOPLE
5	SPARTAN
6	THE VILLAGE

IMUS

471-8188 / 875-5858

Cinema	Movie
1	COLLATERAL
2	ETERNAL SUNSHINE
3	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4	THE VILLAGE
5	KARELASYON
6	A CINDERELLA STORY

BACOLOD

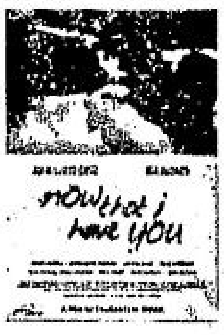
441-0458/59

Cinema	Movie
1	COLLATERAL
2	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3	ALONG CAME POLLY
4	WEREWOLF
5	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
6	PERLAS

ILOILO

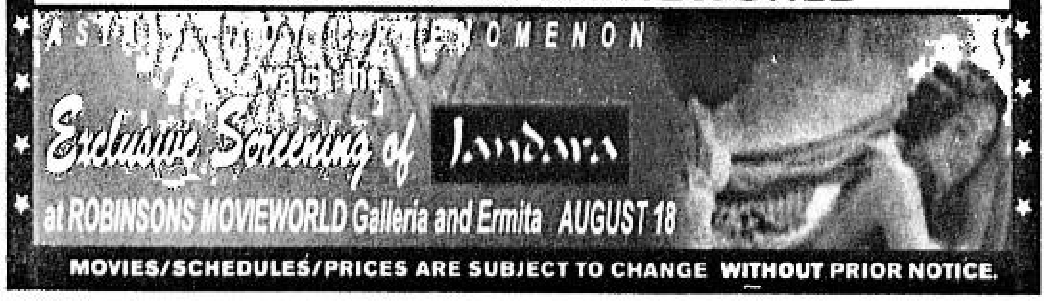
336-8070/78

Cinema	Movie
1	COLLATERAL
2	THE PRINCE AND ME
3	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
4	EVE
5	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6	PERLAS


now that i have you

See it at its Best
THX

at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD


OMENON
Exclusive Screening of Landara
at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD Galleria and Ermita AUGUST 18

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

A fun-filled family day with G Plan Family Ties

FUN and surprises await the whole family this Sunday, Aug. 15 at the Glorietta Activity Center as Globe Handyphone treats its loyal G-Plan subscribers with the first ever G-Plan Family Day! This marks the first time that G-Plan subscribers from Metro Manila and surrounding areas get to spend quality time with their loved ones while interacting with fellow families on G-Plan.

Cool celebrity parents Paolo and Suzie Abrera will preside over the day's festivities, which include exciting games and activities for each member of the family and will culminate in the launch of G-Plan Family Ties, Globe Handyphone's program of plan and services tailor-fit to meet the needs of today's family. The G-Plan Family Ties offer not only the lowest and most affordable extension plans but also services like Share-a-Load, Call and Text Collect and Txt Bak Mo, Libre Ko, that will surely strengthen the bond between family members even more. To make this event more memorable, participating families can capture that perfect Globe moment with a free family portrait.

G-Plan Family Day will begin at 10 a.m. and lasts until 8 p.m. All G-Plan subscribers have to do is bring their Globe Handyphone to join in the fun. So bring the whole family and have a great time. With G-Plan Family Ties, family bonding will always be fun. No wonder more families prefer G-Plan over other cellphone plans!

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Cinema	Movie	Schedule	Rating
1	THE VILLAGE	11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10 8:30, 10:50	GP-13
2	THE CINDERELLA STORY	11:05, 1:15, 3:25, 5:35 7:45, 10:20	GP
3	GARFIELD	10:50, 12:55, 3:10 5:15, 7:25, 10:00	GP
4	COLLATERAL	11:00, 1:40, 4:20 7:00, 10:00	R-13

Effective account management seminar

A THREE-day seminar on 'Effective Key Account Management' is slated on Aug. 25 to 27 from 1:30 to 5 p.m. at the AIM Conference Center, Makati City. Organized by Podiums & Lecterns Marketing Services, the workshop is designed to present the more practical yet truly effective skills and techniques in better identifying, managing, maintaining, and growing key accounts. Interested parties can avail of the early bird rate of P 7,150 until Aug. 15. Regular rate is at P7,700. Fees are inclusive of seminar materials and snacks. For information, call Paula/Jun at 453-8540, 0920-295-4181 or email adriano@pacific.net.ph.

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

GARFIELD GP 12:00,1:45,3:30, 5:20,7:10,9:00	CINDERELLA STORY GP 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU GP 12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:00
COLLATERAL R13 11:50,2:25,5:00,7:35,10:10	ETERNAL SUNSHINE R13 1:10,3:20,5:30,7:40,9:50	THE VILLAGE PG13 12:40,3:05,5:30,7:55,10:20

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

Araneta Center

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

Cinema	Sound	Movie	Schedule
3	Dolby	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	10:30 am 12:30 pm 2:30 pm 4:30 pm 6:30 pm 8:30 pm
4	SDDS	COLLATERAL	12:00 nn 2:16 pm 4:30 pm 6:45 pm 9:00 pm
5	dts	THE VILLAGE	12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
6	Dolby	KA-RELASYON	12:05 pm 2:15 pm 4:25 pm 6:35 pm 8:45 pm
7	Dolby	CINDERELLA STORY	12:25 pm 2:35 pm 4:45 pm 6:55 pm 9:05 pm

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL

OPEN TODAY 4 PM to 10 PM

ARANETA COLISEUM

Date	Event
Aug 14	UAAP: F E U vs. La Salle
Aug 15	CCF WORSHIP SERVICE
Aug 18	BENCH Fashion Show
Aug 21	AVON Sales Convention
Aug 22	UAAP : Ateneo vs. La Salle

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

SHANG CINEPLEX

Cinema	Movie	Schedule
1	GARFIELD	FS : 12 15 pm, 2 25 pm, 4 35 pm, 6 45 pm, LMF : 8 55 pm (GP)
2	COLLATERAL	FS 11 40 am, 2 15 pm, 4 50 pm, 7 25 pm, LMF : 10 00 pm (R-13)
3	THE VILLAGE	(R-13)
4	A CINDERELLA STORY	FS 12.15 pm, 2.30 pm, 4.45 pm, 7.00 pm LMF : 9 15 pm (GP)
PREMIERE THEATRE	SYLVIA	FS : 12:15 pm, 2:25 pm, 4:35 pm, 6:45 pm, LMF ; 8:55 (R - 13)

For more information please call
633-7851 loc. 169 to 172

Shangri-La Plaza

THEATRE MALL

GREENHILLS

a landmark reinvented!

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

NOW SHOWING

Cinema	Movie	Schedule	Rating
CINEMA 1	CINDERELLA STORY	11:05, 1:20, 3:35, 5:50, 8:05, 10:20	GP
CINEMA 2	THEVILLAGE	11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15	P13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM

Dates	Show	Time
AUGUST 17-18, 24-25 & 31	NOAH'S BIG BOAT	10AM & 2PM
AUG 20-21 & 27-28	NYOY VOLANTE & NINA	9:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

star group of cinemas movie guide

IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA - SHAW

Tel. No. 726.61.50

- Reserve
- The Village
- Now That I Have You

OPENING SOON!
4 DOLBY DIGITAL CINEMAS

METROPOLIS star ALABANG

Tel. No. 850.42.85

1. Dead People
2. Karelasyon
3. Catwoman
4. Now That I Have You
5. The Village
6. Collateral

starmall LAS PINAS

Tel. No. 873.50.04

- Hot Spot
- Now That I Have You

FREE!!! Cinema Pass Every 3 Tickets You buy at any Star Group of Cinemas

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1333 Series of 2004

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KARELASYON
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
B	CLOSED
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1,2,3 & 4	GARFIELD / COLLATERAL / THE VILLAGE/CINDERELLA
PREMIERE THEATRE	SYLVIA
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	KARELASYON
CINEMA-3	KING ARTHUR
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	I, ROBOT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	ELLA ENCHANTED
CINEMA-6	MAKAMUNDO
CINEMA-7	CATWOMAN
CINEMA-8	IMELDA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	COLLATERAL
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE VILLAGE
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	CINDERELLA STORY
CINEMA-12	GARFIELD
CINEMA-14	DEAD PEOPLE
CINEMA-15	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PIÑAS)	SPIDERMAN 2
CINEMA-1	LADY KILLERS
CINEMA-2	I ROBOT
CINEMA-4	RESERVED
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Bits & Clips

Free perfume-making demo

CHEMWORLD Fragrance Institute will join the "Small Office Home Office Fair 2004" at the Megatrade Hall 2, SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City on Aug. 27 to 29 to promote entrepreneurship in perfume-making and aromatherapy. Chemworld will conduct lectures and demonstrations on how to make body spray, colognes, and perfumes, plus the proper use of essential oils in blending massage oils and other spa products. Participants will gain the basic knowledge on the art and science of this rapidly growing and highly profitable fragrance business. They will understand the properties and uses of raw ingredients, know how to choose the right packaging materials, and learn easy-to-follow formulations. Chemworld will also have a booth for one-on-one consultation, and where the public can buy various packaging supplies, fragrance oils, essential oils, aroma lamps and ready-to-use perfumes or colognes. For more details, contact Chemworld at 890-98-44 (47) local 14/38; cell number 0917-8736547, or email: chemwrld@info.com.ph.

Design and décor at Bonifacio Ridge event

Ayala Land's Bonifacio Ridge is one of the much-anticipated developments in the new business hub Bonifacio Global City, and with good reason. Stunningly designed condo units like Bonifacio Ridge are few and far between, as these are among the sleekest abodes in the country that offer residents of various lifestyles panoramic views of the picturesque Makati City CBD and the winsome fairways of the Manila Golf Course. Turnover of these exemplary units will be on October, and future residents can already make plans of decorating their elegant new homes. These units already offer comfortable living and stylish good looks, but still allow for further personal artistic touches. Bonifacio Ridge will be hosting an open house where books and other publications about design, décor, architecture and garden landscaping will be exhibited and made for sale. The daylong event will be held on Aug. 15, Sunday, at the site, located at 1st Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila. For further details on this event and Bonifacio Ridge, please call 848-5000, log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph, or email ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph.

Blog on with Globe now

EVER the purveyor of the trendy mobile lifestyle, Globe Handyphone introduces yet another hip and exciting service with G-Blogs, the first mobile blogging service in the country today!

Building on the worldwide popularity of blogs, short for weblogs or online journals, G-Blogs takes the features of standard blogs and powers it up with the possibilities of mobile connectivity. Document the day's activities instantly, upload photos taken with a camera phone, access blogs without using a PC - G-Blogs makes all these possible! Like popular blogging tools found on the Internet, G-Blogs allows registered users to post text entries and photos on a personalized webspace all their own, as well as browse and post comments on other G-Blogs. The G-Blogs website can be viewed online at http://g-blogs.com. To create a G-Blog, simply go to the G-Blogs website, sign up, and start posting!

G-Blog entries can be posted online or via mobile phone. Text entries can be posted by sending "POST <TITLE>@<ENTRY>" to 2815. Photos can also be uploaded on G-Blogs by sending an MMS with "<TITLE>@<ENTRY>" and the attached photo to 2815. Minimal fees are charged for entries posted via mobile phone. SMS posts cost P2.50 while MMS posts are charged P5.

G-Blog hosting is free to all myGlobe members! G-Blog owners get 20Mb of free webspace with customizable pre-designed blog templates. They also get to send private messages, chat with other G-Blog owners using the Tagboard, and create private, restricted-access blogs. Non-myGlobe members may also access G-Blogs as "visitors", but cannot create a blog or post comments on other blogs.

The blogging community contains a wide selection of blogs as interesting and diverse as the users themselves. Entries can range from personal thoughts to opinions about current events, photos of exotic travel destinations, or the latest trends in fashion. Post photos of last night's gimik or write about tips for house-training puppies - you call the shots on your blog. G-Blogs makes it easier to share these special blog entries with friends and fellow blogging aficionados, as it allows both G-Blog owners and G-Blog visitors to download or forward blog entries to other mobile phones. All they have to do is type "GET <G-Blog ID #>" (for downloads) or "FWD <G-Blog ID #><Handyphone #> and send to 2815. Downloads and forwarded entries will be received in MMS form and cost P5 each.

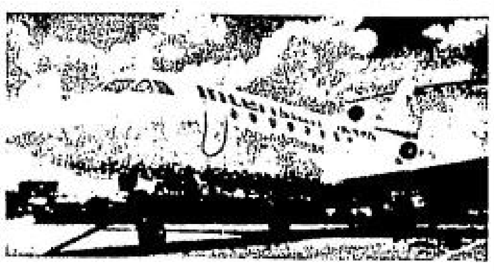
G-Blog owners and visitors can also search for a G-Blog through SMS by sending SEARCH <Name or keyword> to 2815. They will be receiving an SMS containing the URLs of the search results which they can browse online. And if they want to know more about a particular G-Blog of interest they just have to send INQ or INQ <G-Blog name found at the end of the URL> to 2815.

Popularity has its privileges in the G-Blog community. For every download or forward of their personal G-Blog entries and photos, G-Blog owners receive two message credits, which can be accumulated and used to send SMS and MMS on the Web.

Blogging has never been this accessible! Now, you no longer have to wait until you get home or to an internet cafe to update or keep up-to-date with your favorite blogs. Record your day as it happens, and read about other real-life events in real-time. With G-Blogs, you too can be a part of the mobile blogging revolution.

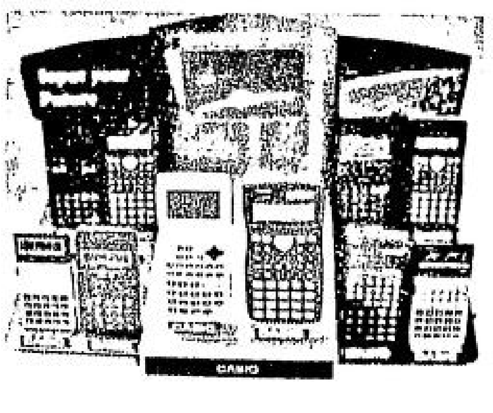
ProductFILES

Interisland Airlines launches new aircraft

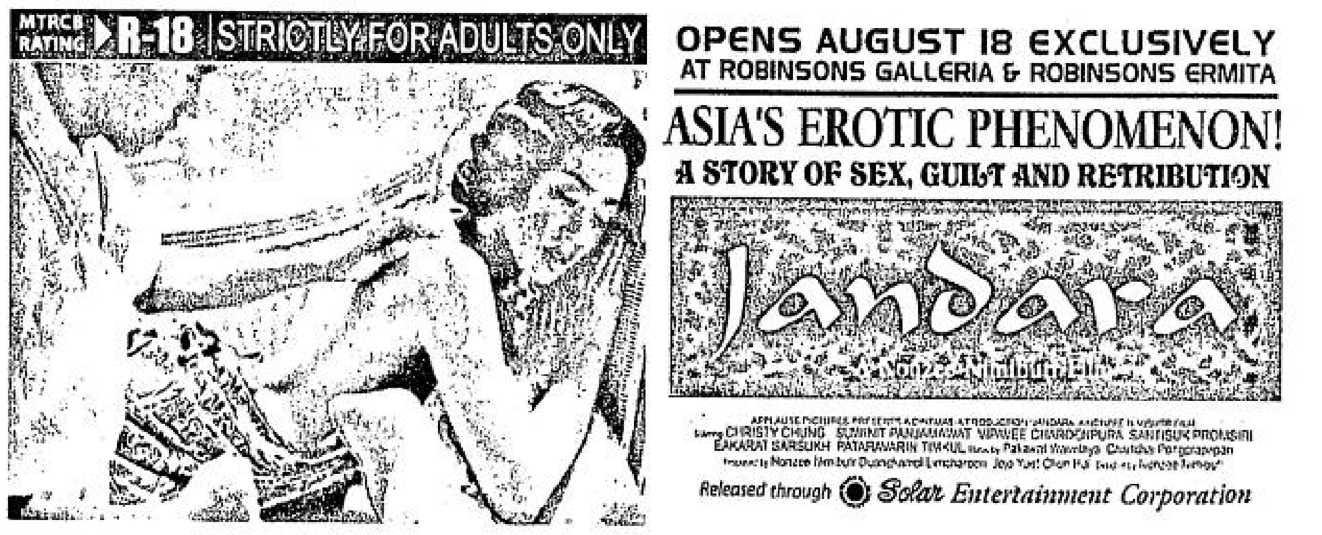


INTERISLAND Airlines has inaugurated its newly acquired YAK 40 36-seater jet to meet the increasing requirements for charter flights. Interisland Airlines operates non-scheduled air passenger and cargo charter flights within the Philippines and Asia. The addition of the YAK 40 will be a big boost to the airlines' expansion plans. Currently, Interisland's routes are also flown by its 9-seater aircraft, the Dornier 28. Interisland Airlines flights are available for operation 24 hours a day, serving the needs of both business and leisure customers. The airlines' private terminal at the domestic airport provides an exclusive location for passengers and guests where they can arrive and depart just a few steps from private secured parking.

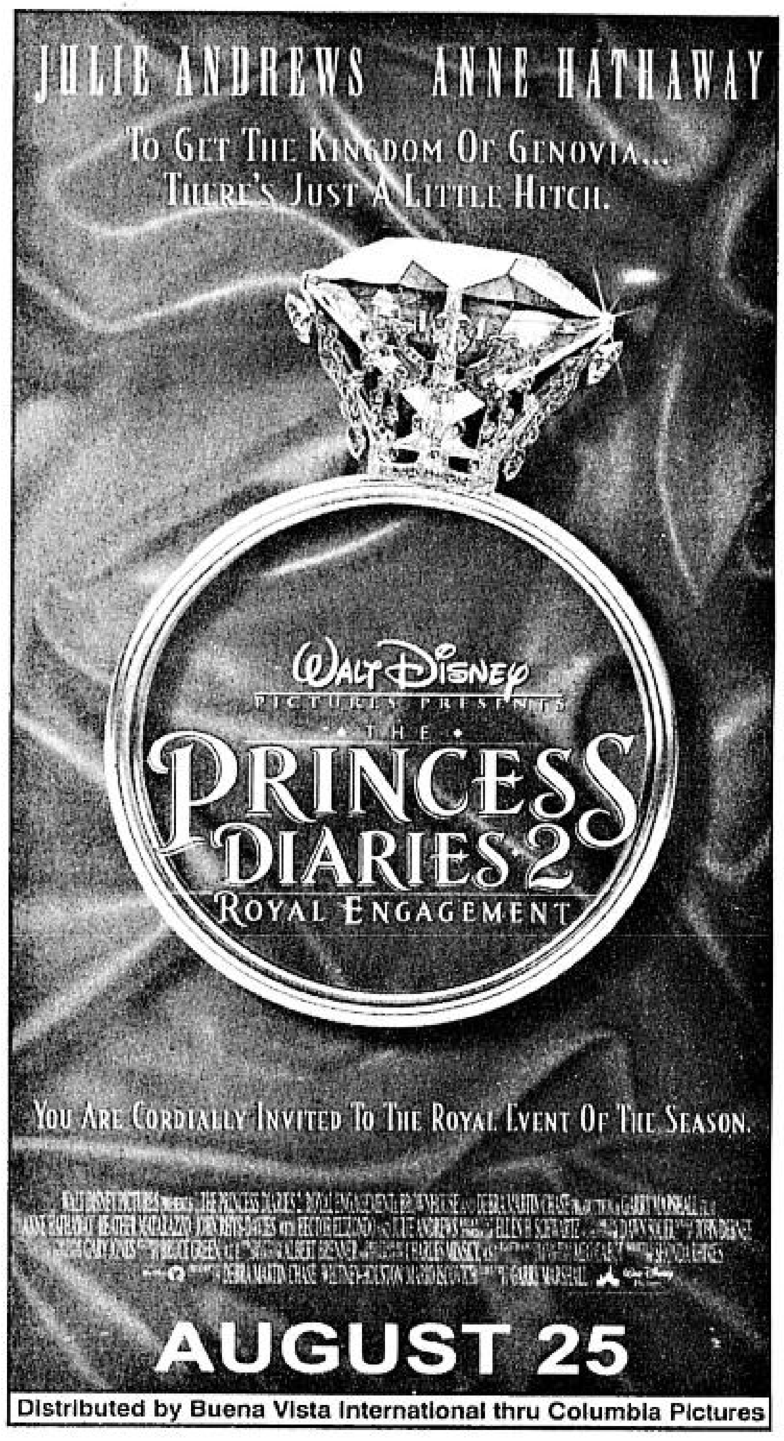
Back to school, back to Casio



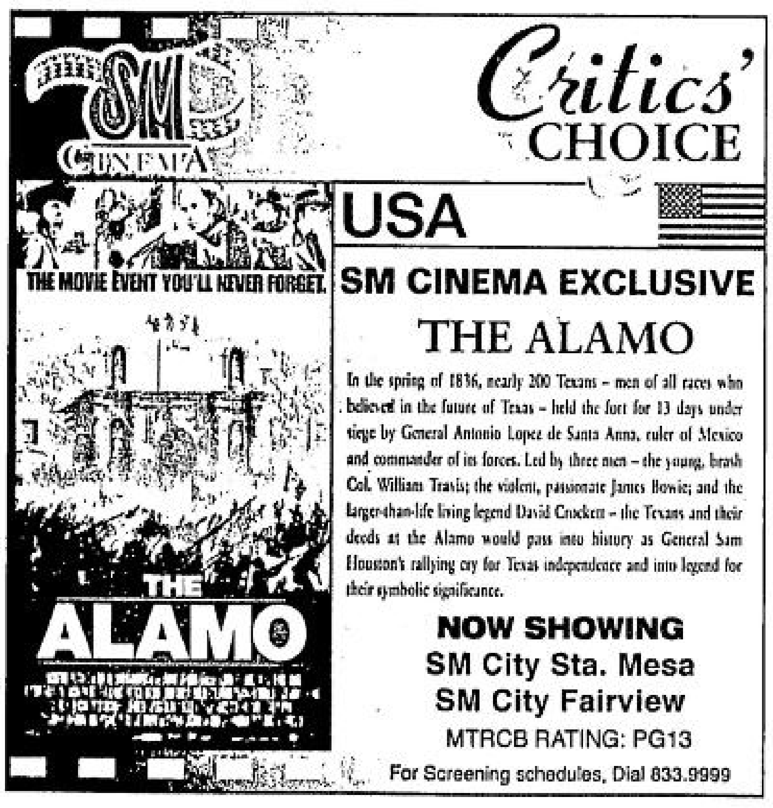
GIVE your grades a boost this coming school year with Casio Calculators, the leading brand in calculators. Casio offers its full line up of New Scientific and Graphics Calculators for the serious student. For all your computing needs, trust the world standard! Casio Calculators are available in all Western Marketing and Globatronics outlets, as well as in all leading stores and bookstores nationwide. For product and order inquiries, please call Business Plus Marketing at tel. 637-6420 to 22, or e-mail at casioedu@mozcom.com.

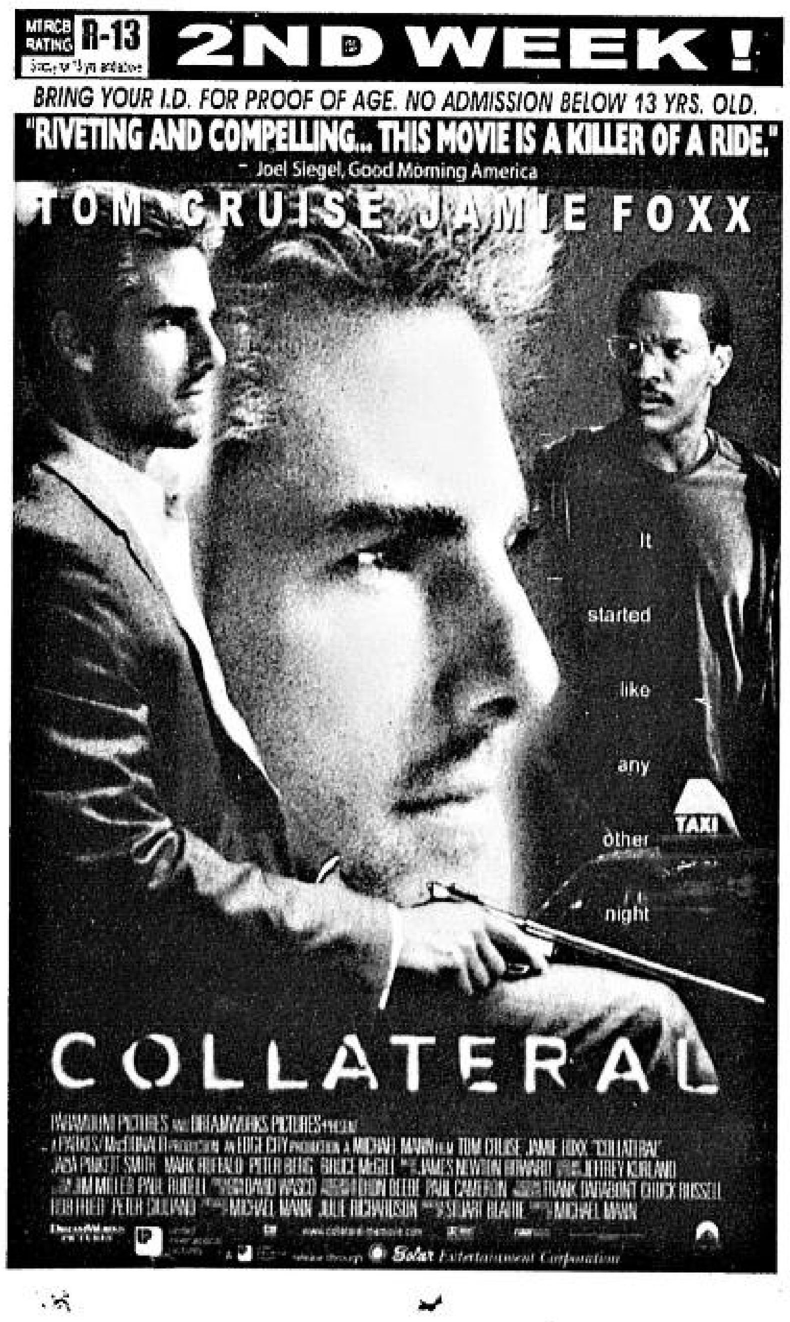

MTRCB RATING R-18 STRICTLY FOR ADULTS ONLY
OPENS AUGUST 18 EXCLUSIVELY
AT ROBINSONS GALLERIA & ROBINSONS ERMITA
ASIA'S EROTIC PHENOMENON!
A STORY OF SEX, GUILT AND RETRIBUTION
Jandara
CHRISTY CHUNG SUNNIT PANJAMAWAT VIPAWEE CHARDCHUPURA SANTISUK PROMSIRI EAKARAT SARSUKH PATARAVARIN TIMKUL
Released through Solar Entertainment Corporation

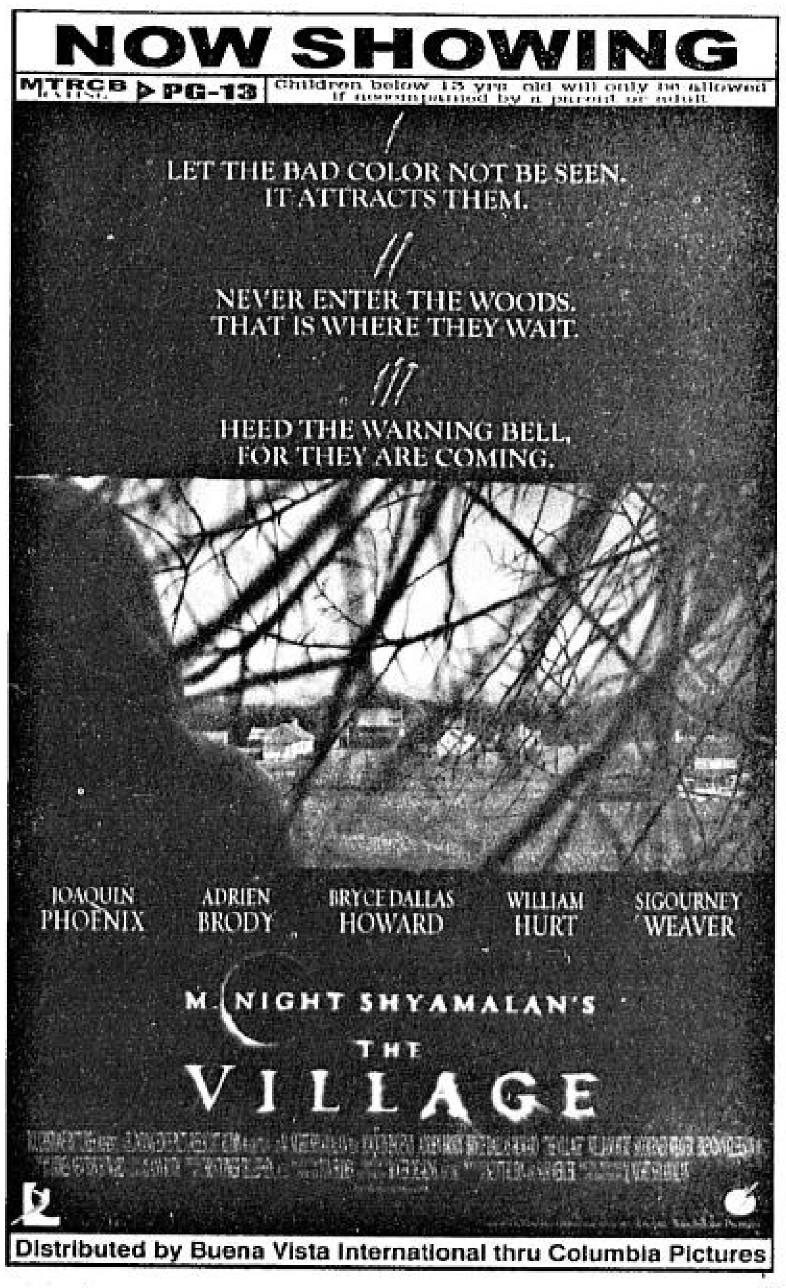
More movies on pages A29 and D2.

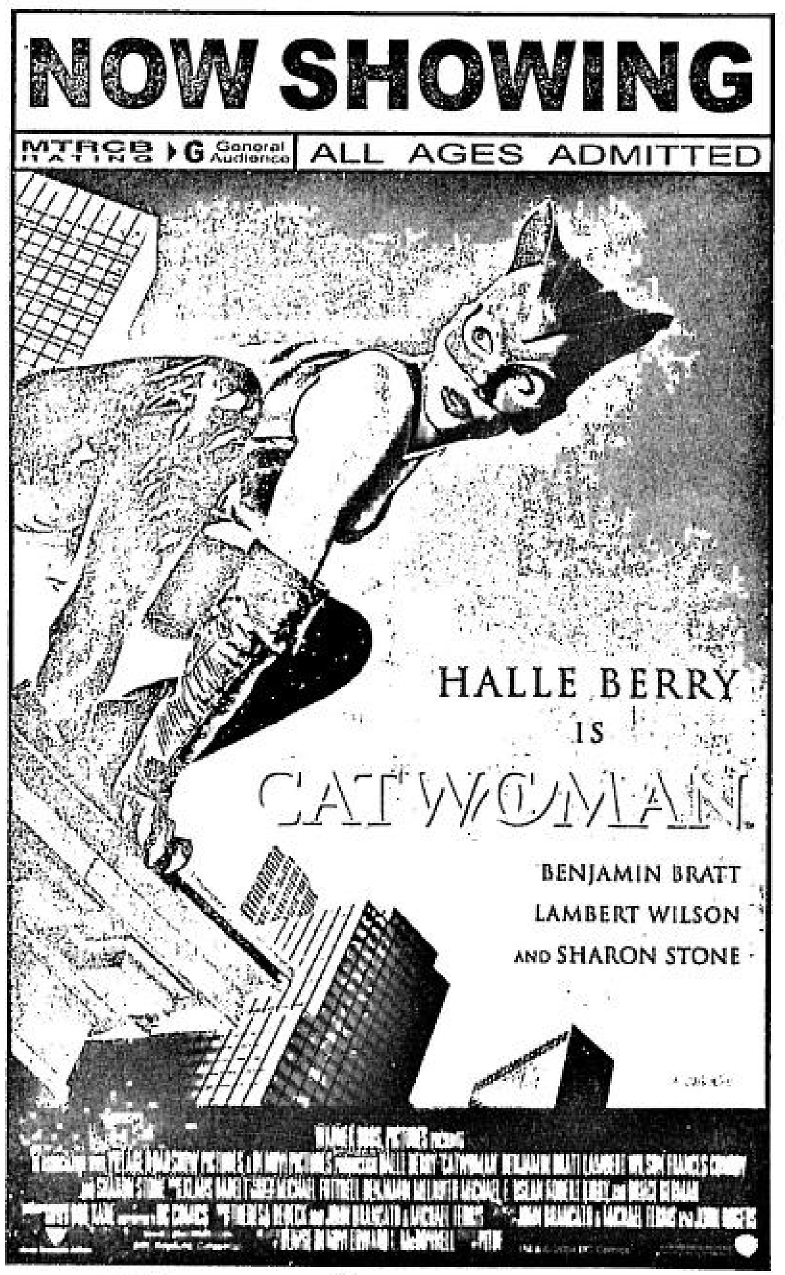

JULIE ANDREWS ANNE HATHAWAY
To Get The Kingdom Of Genovia... There's Just A Little Hitch.
Walt Disney Pictures Presents
The Princess Diaries 2
Royal Engagement
You Are Cordially Invited To The Royal Event Of The Season.
AUGUST 25
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

SM CINEMA
red carpet premiere
aug14 2004 | 7:30pm
SM MEGAMALL
cinema 1
MTRCB Rating: PG 13
regular showing | aug18 2004
at all SM Cinemas nationwide
for screening schedules : 833 9999
WHOEVER WINS... WE LOSE.
ALIEN vs. PREDATOR


SM CINEMA
Critics' CHOICE
USA
THE MOVIE EVENT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET.
THE ALAMO
SM CINEMA EXCLUSIVE
THE ALAMO
In the spring of 1836, nearly 200 Texans – men of all races who believed in the future of Texas – held the fort for 13 days under siege by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, ruler of Mexico and commander of its forces. Led by three men – the young, brash Col. William Travis; the violent, passionate James Bowie; and the larger-than-life living legend David Crockett – the Texans and their deeds at the Alamo would pass into history as General Sam Houston's rallying cry for Texas independence and into legend for their symbolic significance.
NOW SHOWING
SM City Sta. Mesa
SM City Fairview
MTRCB RATING: PG13
For Screening schedules, Dial 833.9999


MTRCB RATING R-13
2ND WEEK!
BRING YOUR I.D. FOR PROOF OF AGE. NO ADMISSION BELOW 13 YRS. OLD.
"RIVETING AND COMPELLING... THIS MOVIE IS A KILLER OF A RIDE."
- Joel Siegel, Good Morning America
TOM CRUISE JAMIE FOXX
It started like any other night
TAXI
COLLATERAL
Solar Entertainment Corporation


NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
I LET THE BAD COLOR NOT BE SEEN. IT ATTRACTS THEM.
II NEVER ENTER THE WOODS. THAT IS WHERE THEY WAIT.
III HEED THE WARNING BELL, FOR THEY ARE COMING.
JOAQUIN PHOENIX
ADRIEN BRODY
BRYCE DALLAS HOWARD
WILLIAM HURT
SIGOURNEY WEAVER
M. NIGHT SHYAMALAN'S THE VILLAGE
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures


NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING G General Audience ALL AGES ADMITTED
HALLE BERRY IS
CATWOMAN
BENJAMIN BRATT
LAMBERT WILSON
AND SHARON STONE

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People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

A taste of the stylish high life with Globe and Samsung

EVER the purveyor of the trendy mobile lifestyle, Globe Handyphone, in partnership with Samsung, offers a taste of the stylish high life with highly anticipated promos that complement the need of the mobile crowd for fashionable lifestyle accessories.

Early this year, Globe and Samsung treated Rodolfo delos Reyes to an extravagant million-peso shopping spree in Rustan's Makati. The lucky Globe subscriber emptied Rustan's Silver Vault in an hour, buying luxury timepieces from Rolex, and jewelry and other lavish items from Cartier, Charriol, Tiffany's and Salvatore Ferragamo.

Hot on the heels of the million peso shopping promo, Globe and Samsung now give subscribers a chance to indulge in the ultimate viewing experience with high-end television sets that no home theater enthusiast can do without. At stake in this exciting electronic raffle are: the 21" Samsung Flat Screen TV, or the 15" Samsung LCD TV, for Third and Second Prizes respectively. For the Grand Prize, a lucky Globe subscriber gets to bring home a 42" Plasma TV, the hottest television set on the market.

To join the promo, just subscribe to any Globe plan and any of the participating Samsung phone at a Globe Business Center or Hub. A corresponding number of raffle entries will be given per plan: 3 entries for Plans 500 and 800, 5 for Plans 1200 and 1800, 8 for Plans 2500 and 3500, and 10 for Platinum Plans 5000, 7000, and 10000. Winners will be notified via a phone call to his or her Globe Handyphone and thru registered mail. Promo ends Aug. 15.

New subscribers will surely feel like a winner when they get their hands on this fabulous array of hip and stylish handsets from Samsung, free with select G-Flex or G-Plans. The Samsung D410 is certainly a touch of class, free on a G-Flex 3500 or G-Max plan, with its unique slide-up action, 262k, 144-bit color screen, 64 built-in polytones, VGA camera and video recorder and e-mail function.

The E700 is the crème de la crème of Samsung's exciting suite. It's a mobile phone, a camera, game console and e-mail assistant wrapped into one beautiful compact design. Perfect for the upwardly mobile individual, the E700 is free on a G-Flex 5000 or Platinum plan.

The Samsung C100, which comes free on G-Flex 2500 or G-Match plan, is the unit worth showing off as it combines the bold and complex features with a refined yet simple design. Picture-happy people will surely love the Samsung X600, free on a G-Flex Plan 1800 or a G-Talk Plus plan, it is a very small and light mobile phone with an integrated VGA camera with flash, night mode and rotating lens. It also has a 65,536 color screen and built-in polyphonic ringtones and Java games. And lastly, new G-Flex 2500 or G-Match subscribers can avail of the X100, a versatile phone that complements an active and sophisticated lifestyle with its MMS features and its brilliant 65K color screen.

Making a fashionable and tech-savvy statement is made effortless with G-Plan and Samsung. No wonder more people prefer G-Plan over other cellphone plans. Visit the nearest Globe Business Center or Hub and start living in style!

HAVE a taste of the high life with the hottest handsets from Globe.

MINISTOP OPENS ITS EASTWOOD CITY BRANCH

The Ministop Lafayette store recently opened within the vibrant Eastwood City. Among those who took part of the festivities were residents of Lafayette condominium as well as employees from the surrounding offices. Children were thrilled with the fun-loving Ministop mascots Minni and Topper, while basketball aficionados queued to get the autographs of San Miguel players Richie Ticzon, Mike Mustre and Cris Bolado who graced the event. There was even a foot parade featuring a gaily-dressed band and an Ati-atihan group who strutted inside the city in a burst of music and color. Shown in photo (from left) are Bobby Go (RCSI Bus. unit group head), Willie Camarillo (RCSI GM), Maricel Santos and Rene Santos (franchisees), and Tom Nishida (RCSI VP) during the turnover of the store opening certificate to the franchisees.

Araullo High School
Batch '71

ARAULLO HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI BATCH 1971 IN ACTION

The Araullo High School Alumni Batch 1971 in coordination with Chairman Dominador Mangalos of Barangay 684, Zone 74 held its initial civic action work to some 300 indigent children at Santiago Street, Paco, Manila, July 17. This social service is part of Batch 1971 Alumni's intention to share its blessing to the less fortunate and to inform other batchmates of the group's existence. Batch '71 will host Araullo High School's Centennial Year Grand Alumni Homecoming in February 2006 to be held on the School Campus on Taft Avenue, Manila. In preparation, we are inviting all other Alumni Batch 1971 to get in touch with Jessette Prospero, Lynette Bernardo Monillas or with Chito Jose Cruz at telephone nos. 732-7295, 400-7261 or 813-2241.

MANILA EAST TRAINING AND REVIEW CENTER OPENS IN TAYTAY RIZAL

Caregiver and Nursing Assistant training school 'Manila East Training and Review Center' (Metrev) in Taytay, Rizal formally opened on July 23. Its dedication to the Lord was led by Pastor Rommel Yazon, (3rd from right), senior pastor of GCF East. It coincided with the birthday celebration of one of its major shareholders Priscila Cruz, (5th from left), wife of the principal owner engineer Julio Cruz. The event was attended by key officials of the government led by Mayor Joric Gacula and Tesda regional director Remedios Flestado, (6th and 7th from left). Officers and friends who were present (from left): VP Jocelyn Delos Reyes, Leonor Naval, Aida Soberano, Estelita Felix, Priscila Cruz, Mayor Joric Gacula, Remedios Flestado, Pastor Rommel Yazon, VP finance/admin Judy Dellota, and VP operations/marketing Reu Dellota. For information on the school's caregiving and nursing program, call 660-9377 or 660-4432.

An alternative approach to wellness

SYNERGYMED Center offers an extensive range of medical services that combine traditional Eastern medicine and Western practices such as acupuncture, acupressure, Chinese body massage and herbal medicine - the best that the East and West can offer.

More than just a clinic, SynergyMed is a sanctuary to wellness, creating for the patient an atmosphere that is conducive to holistic healing, with the relaxing ambience of a spa and the no-nonsense service of a medical clinic. It is a harmonious fusion of the modern and traditional - from its roster of Beijing-trained specialists and skilled Filipino physicians, down to its hi-technology instruments and Zen-inspired interiors.

SynergyMed Center's Holistic Program also gives you a thorough and comprehensive medical work-up (executive check-up) that is designed to pre-empt or determine if a patient is at risk of developing a medical condition, and pinpoint the exact medical attention required. After each executive check-up, clients can avail of alternative consultations with traditional Chinese medicine doctors to complement a holistic approach to total healthcare and maintenance.

Visit SynergyMed Center at 23/F Discovery Center, ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Call (632) 631-2611 or log on to www.fp-synergymed.com.

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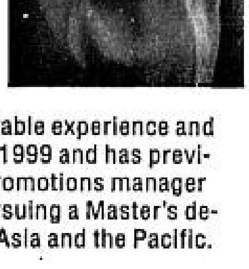
First Come, First Serve Basis

MERCURY DRUGSTORE CONDUCTS FREE CLINIC

Aware of the need to advocate the true meaning of 'Health is One's Greatest Wealth', Mercury Drugstore in cooperation with Metz Pharma, Inc. recently conducted a free clinic activity in key locations. Objective of this project is to create awareness among Filipinos to engage themselves to adapt a healthier lifestyle. This move initiated by both companies is attuned to their commitment to improve the quality of healthcare in the Philippines. For questions and suggestions, you can contact Metz hotline at 924-6701 or through their e-mail address metz@pacific.net.ph.

New VP for Berkley and Family First



BERKLEY Int'l Plans Inc, consistently ranked as one of the pre-need industry's top five in educational plans in terms of new business, together with its marketing arm, Family First Inc, recently announced the promotion of Maria Tzarina Saldaña to the position of vice president. As vice president, Saldaña will concurrently be in charge of four departments, namely, People Management and Development (PMD), Marketing, Corporate Services (CorpServ) and Customer Response Group (CRG). While Saldaña finished Architecture from the Univeristy of the Philippines, it is in the field of Marketing where she gained considerable experience and expertise. She has been with the company since 1999 and has previously held the position of call center manager, promotions manager and marketing manager. Saldaña is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Business Economics at the University of Asia and the Pacific.

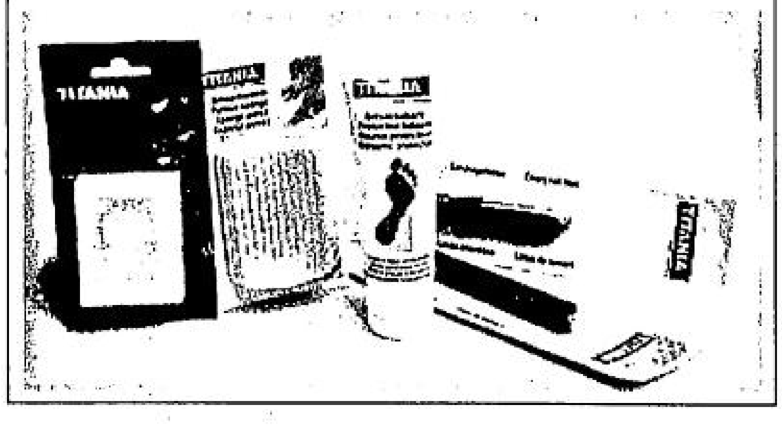
ProductFILES

Cixtor kiddie promo pack

HEY Kids, Ascorbic acid Cixtor 250mL launches its back-to-school promo pack (limited supply only) in Mercury Drug Stores in Metro Manila. The promo pack includes crayons, scissors, paste, eraser and sharpener. Ascorbic acid Cixtor is for children ages two to 12 years old by Solvang Pharma Inc. For any questions about ascorbic acid Cixtor, you may call telephone number 927-7117 or email your questions to solvang@pacific.net.ph. Hurry, limited supply only.

Titania: Your feet's bestfriend

TITANIA satisfies your desire for perfect toenails and silky, smooth feet. During bath time, scrub your feet using Titania Pumice Sponges to exfoliate dead cells and reveal new skin cells. After bathing, dry feet thoroughly and rub in Titania's Protective Balsam to restore and seal in your skin's natural moisture. Use Titania Emery Nail Files to gently round off corners and contour your nails to its perfect shape. Titania beauty care products is exclusively distributed by Filstar Distributors Corp and is available at the Landmark, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Crossings Department Stores, and selected Watsons and PCX branches nationwide.



More PEP on pages B7, B8 and B9

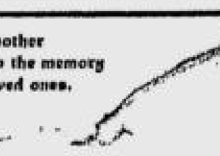
THE HERITAGE

K-PAC CELEBRATES 5TH ANNIVERSARY

Kawatetsu Pac-Atlantic Transport Inc (K-PAC) recently celebrated its 5th anniversary by hosting a cocktail party at the Heritage Hotel in Pasay city. K-PAC offers integrated logistics services that include freight forwarding customs clearance, special project cargo handling, spotting and installation of industrial equipment. Shown are (from left): Ramon de Leon, president of K-PAC; Reiji Nakato, president of JFE Logistics Inc (Japan) and Toshiyuki Matsumoto, president of JFE Steel Phils Inc.

CEU PAN-DELTA BAGS AWARD

Centro Escolar University's Philippine Association of Nutrition-Delta Chapter (CEU PAN-Delta) was awarded as the Most Outstanding Philippine Association of Nutrition (PAN) Student Chapter. The awarding ceremony was held last July 8, during the PAN's 57th Annual Convention at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel, Mandaluyong City. Photo shows Dr. Carmina P. Catapang, CEU dean of the School of Tourism, Family Economics, Nutrition and Hotel and Restaurant Management, with her during the awarding ceremonies are assistant to the dean Veronica S. Balintona, and CEU Senior Nutrition students Catherine Santos and Marjorie Magtoto.



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Mortuary
Viewing Chapels
Crematory
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ATTY. ABELARDO RUIZ VELEZ

Peacefully passed away in the Grace of our Lord on August 12, 2004 at the age of 81.

His bereaved wife **Rosenaida Sarmiento**; children **Cynthia Herten** (†), **Cecilia** and **Ramon Sicat**, **Emilio** and **Cora Velez**, **Roberto** and **Gilda Velez**, **Alaric Martin S. Velez** (†); grandchildren and great grandchildren; other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in Heaven.

His body lies in state at the Molave Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 15, 2004 at the Manila Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

"Rejoice, o highly favored, the Lord is with you." ***Luke 1:28***

SISTER MARY GRACE RIVERA, RGS

(Avelina Ordoveza Rivera of Pila, Laguna)

On 12 August 2004, Sister Grace peacefully ended her 89 years on earth to meet her Shepherd God, after serving Him faithfully for 55 years in religion.

The Philippine Province of the Good Shepherd Sisters and her family request your prayerful remembrance.

The wake is held at the Good Shepherd Chapel, 1043 Aurora Blvd., 1108 Quezon City. The Mass of the Resurrection will be offered on the Feast of the Assumption, 14 August 2004, at 9 a.m. Interment at the Loyola Memorial park follows.

In lieu of flowers a donation for the fund for the poor will be appreciated.

IN LOVING MEMORY
of

LILIA DABLO FARIN VITUG

January 23, 1938 – August 15, 2003
on her
FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Husband, **Atty. Eulogio C. Vitug**; only child **Lilicel**; son-in-law **Jojo Velasquez**; grandchildren **Joshua**, **Caitlin**, **Nica** and **MJ**, request relatives and friends to join them in offering a Mass to be held on August 15, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. at the **Repository of the Apostles, St. Peter Parish** along Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

IN MEMORIAM

The Board of Directors and Staff of D'Rite Service Corporation and Price Marketing and Promotions Corporation mourns the death of its Vice President and General Manager

RUFINO "RAFFY" BELEN

who joined his Creator on August 12, 2004 after his lingering illness at the age of 56.

The body lies in state at Amado Compound Bgy. Banaba, San Mateo, Rizal. Relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 15, 2004 at Paraiso Memorial Park, San Mateo, Rizal after the 9 o'clock a.m. Mass at his residence.

ARCH. LEONCIO DE GUZMAN VICENTE

A 20-year kidney transplant patient has peacefully joined his Creator on 10 August 2004 at the age of 52.

His grateful and beloved wife **Leticia**, loving children **Randy**, **Mariglo**, **Veronica**, **Golda**, son-in-law **Miguel**, grandchildren **Sydney** and **Gelo**, brothers and sisters, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their ancestral home at 073 Capistrano Street, Marungko, Angat, Bulacan. Interment today, Saturday 12:00 noon at the Himlayan Cemetery, Angat, Bulacan.

RODOLFO MACAPAGAL ADVINCULA, Sr.

Has joined his wife
Felicitas T. Advincula,
and peacefully rests in the
infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord
on August 11, 2004 at the age of 80.

His loving children, **Myrna** & **Ronnie**, **Rheza** & **Sonnie**, **Rod** & **Marla**, **Wilma** & **Carlos**, **Yogie** & **Emily**, **Rory**, and **Gary**; His grandchildren, relatives and friends request for prayers for his eternal happiness.

His remains lie in state at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart Church in Sacred Heart St., Makati City

Interment will be on August 15, 2004 at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Paranaque immediately following the 1:00 PM Mass.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
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Mandaue City, Cebu; Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
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Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602

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Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603
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HERITAGE PARK
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Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
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Tels. 651-1711; 651-0737
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200 Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City;
Tels. 427-8412; 4278403
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Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
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438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
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Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
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DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

PROJECT	APPROVED BUDGET
Supply of Labor and Materials for Office Uniforms for the DBP's Rank-and-File Employees	P12,400,000.00

Estimated Date of Completion/Delivery : November 30, 2004

Schedule of Activities:

Pre-Bidding Conference	**August 31, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.. 6/F, OPS Conference Room, DBP Head Office**
Submission and Opening of Eligibility Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	**"On or before" September 16, 2004 at 10:00 a.m., 6/F, OPS, DBP Head Office**

Application for eligibility check is open to suppliers registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission/Department of Trade and Industry and has been engaged in the **institutional uniform contracting for at least three (3) years and the lead proponent has at least five (5) years of relevant management training**, must be at least 60% Filipino-owned (for partnership and corporations). Interested suppliers may secure the Eligibility Requirement Form from the Procurement Services Division, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City or you may download these forms at www.devbankphil.com.ph and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management.

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 series of 2003 will be used in the conduct of this Bidding.

The Bank reserves the right to reject documents that do not comply with the requirements.

For further inquiries, please call Mr. Manuel A. Tagalo at telephone numbers 812-6375 / 815-1613.

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Aug. 14 & 21, 2004)

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
P.O. Box 789 Manila, Philippines
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel. 632-4231; Fax No. (632) 636-2567

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY

HQ/WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

(Contract ADB/OAS-2004/051)

1. The Asian Development Bank ("ADB"), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites experienced interested companies to apply for pre-qualification in the bidding for HQ/Web Site Development Project at ADB Building, No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines.
2. The web development team is expected to provide maintenance support in updating the contents of the site. The services shall include providing technical support in developing new innovations and features that will make ADB's external web site a leading-edge site. The team will also manage and maintain the technical operations of both ADB Institute web site and ADB's Media Center. The scope of services is provided in detail in the Work Performance Statement to be given to interested applicants.
3. Applications for prequalification will only be entertained from companies meeting the following criteria:
   - i. The applicant must have a legal existence as a validly registered company for a minimum of five (5) years, or it may also be a joint partnership, provided each partner to the partnership has a legal existence as a validly registered company for a minimum of five (5) years;
   - ii. The applicant must have extensive experience in the field of web site development and/or similar services for no less than five (5) years and have done similar projects for the last five (5) years in the Philippines;
   - iii. The applicant must have a cumulative revenue derived from operations and maintenance services of at least Philippine Pesos 10,000,000 for the last three (3) years;
   - iv. The applicant must have a generally sound financial and credit position;
   - v. The applicant is not under a declaration or record of ineligibility for corrupt and/or fraudulent practices issued or kept by ADB.
4. Prequalification documents may be obtained from Contracts Administration, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 4219 North, at the above address, from **16-18 August 2004** on any working day (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), or call 632-4231 or 632-4452; fax number (632) 636-2567, email address: dmunoz@adb.org.
5. Applicants will be required to submit two copies (marked "Original" and "Copy") of applications for prequalification each in a sealed envelope, which must be delivered either by hand or by registered mail addressed to the attention of the Head, Contracts Administration, Room 4223 N, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines, not later than **4:00 p.m. on 31 August 2004**, and be clearly marked "Application to Pre-qualify for HQ/Web Site Development Project".
6. The successful applicant/bidder will be given a contract which shall be for one year and thereafter ADB has the option to renew the contract every year for a maximum of five years.
7. Invitation to bid will be issued to pre-qualified applicants who pass the minimum prequalification criteria and evaluated as pre-qualified by considering the evaluation criteria, which will be verified by the site inspections.
8. Only pre-qualified companies will be contacted and issued bidding documents. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any application for prequalification, and to postpone issuance of bidding documents.
9. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of the application for prequalification shall be borne solely by the applicant.

(Sgd.) CECILE L.H.F. GREGORY
Chairperson
Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

(PDI–August 13 & 14, 2004)

SCIENCE/HEALTH

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or Cesar D. Mangawang
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Manila Observatory shifts gears for environment

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

VILLARIN

SCIENTISTS have been obsessed with outer space even before Neil Armstrong made that fateful giant leap for mankind 35 years ago. However, there is an increasing number of scientific institutions, such as the 139-year-old Manila Observatory run by the Jesuit fathers, that have turned their genius' attention a little closer to home.

In addition to looking at the sun's frequent magnetic storms and the behavior of charged electrons some 100 kilometers away from the atmosphere, the country's oldest observatory has unleashed its research powers to study the Philippines' air quality and find ways to prevent further global warming.

Jose Ramon T. Villarin, S.J., head of the Manila Observatory, told the INQUIRER that the work shifted in 2000 because the group realized that the Observatory's work should not be limited to the realm of pure science.

Said Villarin: "I have seen the scientific journals just gathering dust in some area. The question is, what do we do with all that data?"

Villarin holds a doctorate in atmospheric physics from the Georgia Tech in Atlanta.

Every breath you take

One of the products of that shift is the landmark three-year study on air quality in Metro Manila. The results showed that Filipinos have more to fear than the supposed weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

The study of air samples, taken from August 2000 to February 2004, confirmed that the air Filipinos breathe was killing them softly.

The samples were taken from the Philippine General Hospital, Manila; National Printing Office, Edsa, Quezon City; Manila Observatory, Diliman, Quezon City; Chason Southville Executive Homes, Pasig and Good Shepherd Spiritual Center, Emerald Hills, Antipolo.

The data showed that the amount of deadly particulate matter in Metro Manila reached hazardous levels in certain areas, particularly Edsa, at certain times of the year.

Of concern is the amount of particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less (a micron is 1/1000 of a millimeter).

Combustion engines were tagged as the major culprits behind rising levels of deadly particulate matter that "pose the graver threat to public health."

The Observatory's data showed that the "more dangerous" PM2.5 was "frequently observed to exceed standards."

"In fact, more than half of daily PM2.5 levels along a major road such as Edsa was found to be beyond the acceptable standard," Villarin said.

Villarin added that children and senior citizens were particularly vulnerable to the ill effects of PM2.5 because they do not have the same capability as healthy adults to expel these particulate matter, which are small enough to lodge undetected in the lungs.

Science and society

Villarin said the Manila Observatory was coordinating closely with the environment and energy departments to find ways to bring down the rising levels of PM2.5 in Metro Manila.

"We used to be so technical before, but now we feel that science must make a dent and help society," he said.

The Manila Observatory has thus lobbied for policy changes in the transport sector to bring down pollution levels.

These include a motor vehicle inspection system, two- to four-stroke tricycle conversion, railway development, diesel particulate traps for vehicles, use of co-co-methyl diesel fuel for jeepneys and bikeway development.

"The situation can only get worse if we do not do something about it now," Villarin said.

God in secular fields

Villarin said the combustion of fuels, used mainly for power and transportation, also contributes to the increasing levels of carbon monoxide in the atmosphere, thus contributing to global warming, or the increase in the earth's surface temperature.

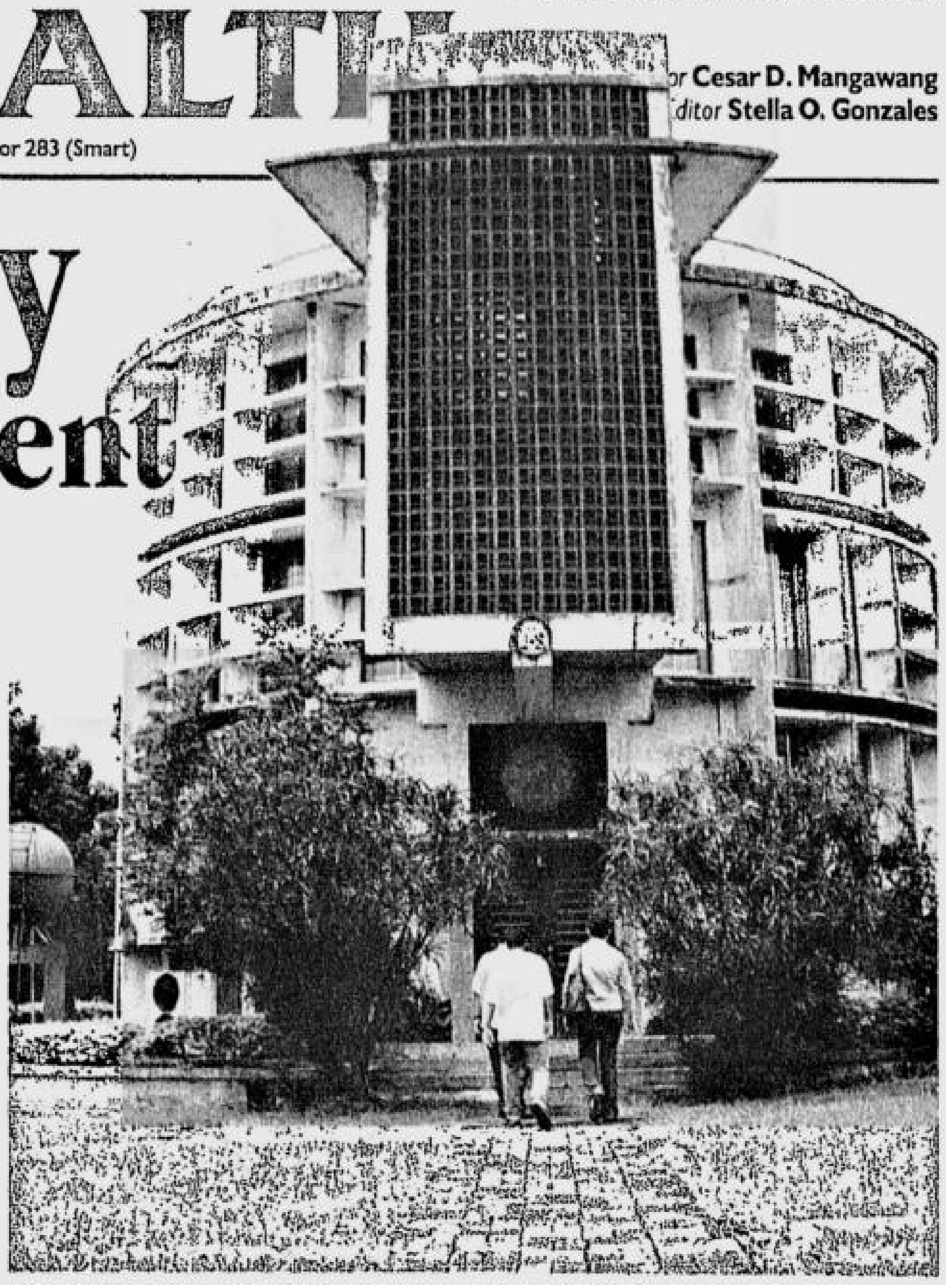
"We are already seeing the effects, especially on our coral reefs. Because of the increase in water temperature, bleaching occurs and the corals die. If they die, then there will be no more fish," he said.

Villarin said studying climate and air quality might seem, to some people, too far out of the religious field.

He, however, said the Jesuit fathers were merely inspired by the teachings of their founder, St. Ignatius of Loyola, who said God is found not just in the church, but also in the secular fields.

One of these Jesuit fathers was Frederic Faura, who put up the Manila Observatory in 1865, out of his many years of studying the dreaded storms that plagued the Philippines.

"The Lord is to be found even in the most oppressive of situations," Villarin said.


THE MANILA Observatory at the Ateneo de Manila is being used to study the country's air quality and finding ways to prevent further global warming.

PHOTOS BY AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Fil-Am biologist makes science fun

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

WHO says science is abstruse and boring? Listen to Dr. Cindy H. Encarnación [cencarna@slsc.org] as she explains DNA, genes and chromosomes to her geologist-husband John for the first time:

"Are they different or the same? How do they figure together?" he asks.

Cindy narrates, "I had to come up with a visual way to describe the relationships of each, in the context of a living thing. Then I remembered that a baby niece had a set of nesting toy barrels—each one opened, revealing a smaller barrel inside."

"This barrel," she holds up the largest one, "represents a living thing, animal, plant or human."

She opens the first barrel and holds up the smaller one within. "A living thing is made of organ systems..." She continues to open the barrels, each progressively getting smaller, "...which in turn, are made of organs, tissues and cells. Inside the cell is a nucleus, which contains chromosomes. On the chromosomes are genes, which are made up of chemical compounds," as she holds up the tiniest barrel.

By using a toy, Encarnación was able to present complex cutting-edge concepts in a meaningful way. She has since used that activity in the St. Louis Science Center, where she is associate director of Modern Life Sciences.

Academic career

In 1986, Encarnación graduated cum laude from the University of the Philippines, with a bachelor's degree in zoology. She received her doctorate in biology in 1995 from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and a postdoc at Ohio State University Medical School (in an in-vitro fertilization lab, no less).

She embarked on an academic career through extensive laboratory experience and peer-reviewed publications.

But life takes strange twists. "At one point in my life, I realized that I did not live and breathe science each and every waking moment. I used to tease my husband that I knew he was thinking about geology whenever he got this faraway look in his eyes, even in the middle of our dinner conversations! I knew then that I did not have 'it'—the passion that it takes for continuing in academia, in its publish-or-perish environment."

Her husband became a faculty member at St. Louis University, but "the timing was such that faculty positions (in universities and junior colleges in the area) were nonexistent for a biologist with my background, and I did not want to be a perennial postdoc. What then? Fortunately, St. Louis is a wonderful city with many cultural and educational institutions (a zoo, history museum, art museum and science museum)."

Encarnación did volunteer work at the education department of the zoo, and soon after landed a job at the Science Center, where she remains to this day.

Simplifying concepts

She describes her work with passion: "The Science Center aims to stimulate interest in and understanding of science and technology throughout the community. I work in developing the biology exhibits and educational programs of the museum. Our audiences are kids and adults, families, community and school groups.

"I am especially fulfilled when I am able to communicate complex biology concepts in ways that are understandable to the general public. I don't mean dumbing down the science, but rather, being able to use language and engaging activities and exhibits that are accessible to our visitors at the museum who don't usually have backgrounds in science.

"I'm thrilled when I see children's eyes light up with the excitement of discovery and realization—it's when I've contributed to a kid's, or an adult's, for that matter, Aha! moment. I also love it when adults come up to me and say, 'You know, I wish they taught genetics to me in school this way, I would have done better in class.' It's a wonderful feeling!"

But Encarnación has not forgotten her native land. She has tied up with Museo Pambata to develop materials for cell biology, genetics and biotechnology for Grades 4 to 6. She has also done a workshop for science teachers at St. Scholastica's College in Manila, with the goal of integrating the program into their curriculum.

Natural curiosity

What about our local science teachers?

"The teaching of science has to be experiential. Children are naturally curious, and their entry into science is through the natural sciences. Remember that first smooth, perfectly round rock you found and kept in your pocket? Or that beautiful shell, with its shiny interior that you held to your ear to hear the sound of the sea? Or maybe you licked and tasted the sweet nectar of the santan flower? (I did, much to Mommy's dismay!)

"Teachers have to nurture and build upon that natural curiosity, that sense of awe from observing the environment. Teachers have to encourage collecting as a hobby, because it hones observational skills.

"Science is all about observing, questioning and formulating plausible explanations—those are the basics. Testing and experimentation come a little later.

"I also believe that science has to be taught in such a way that it has relevance, that it has a place in people's lives. I like to think that someday, people will realize that science is everywhere, not just in the classroom or laboratory. I like to point out that science is around us all the time—in our homes, on the streets, on excursions to the beach.

"We are scientists when we make precise measurements to bake a cake, when we observe what makes potholes on the street, when we guess when the next tide comes in. Math essentially must be taught the same way.

"Don't young children love to play store, count money and give change? Take kids out of the classroom more often!"

KIDS' QUIZ WEEK 2

How we travel

SOMEONE once said that "the true traveler is he who goes on foot..." but that isn't possible all the time, is it? Get to know the pioneers of our various modes of transportation, people who made it possible for us to set foot from one place to another. Match the kind of transportation on the left with its inventor on the right.

Score: 1-4 Good; 5-7 Very Good; 8-10 Excellent

Dianne M. Villafuerte

Transportation	Inventor
1. locomotive	a) Dean Kamen
2. airplane	b) Igor Sikorsky
3. helicopter	c) Ferdinand von Zeppelin
4. steamboat	d) Richard Trevithick
5. submarine	e) Phoenicians
6. bicycle	f) Robert Fulton
7. wooden ships	g) Joseph and Étienne Montgolfier
8. dirigible	h) Henry Ford
9. Segway	i) Cornelius Drebbel
10. automobile	j) Pierre Lallement
	k) Wilbur and Orville Wright

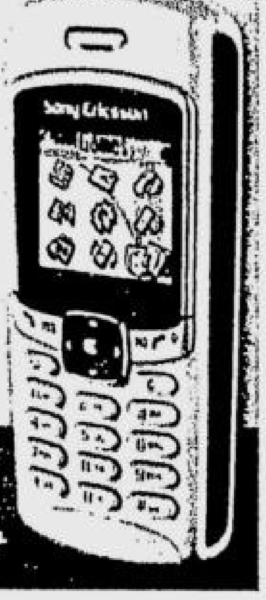
ANSWERS to last week's quiz: 1-h, 2-d, 3-g, 4-j, 5-a, 6-c, 7-b, 8-f, 9-i, 10-e

Send your answers on or before Aug. 12, 2004, 2 p.m. to kidsquiz@inquirer.com.ph with your name, address, telephone number and date of birth.

Last week's winner: STEPHANIE AINSLEY S. SY

You can claim your prize at the Marketing Department, PDI Building, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City and look for Ms. [illegible] Vela.

Join and get a chance to win a Sony Ericsson T230 mobile phone and a premium gift pack!



Eat fat, be healthy

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

YOU'VE read articles about how obesity has become an epidemic throughout the world. You know that a lot of people overeat, that many aren't eating enough of the good stuff, and that you're one of them.

So the next time you walk into a restaurant, you order a salad instead of what you really want, and you pick the plain one instead of those that come with all sorts of toppings. And you ask for the low-fat dressing although you can't really eat the salad unless it's doused in blue cheese because you can't stand the way raw food tastes. And you go home feeling very unsatisfied with your meal because you didn't get to eat what you wanted.

But fat is good, according to Wendy White and her colleagues at the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at Iowa State University.

Fat to break down plant cells

Their study, which appears in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, says that without enough fat, the plant cells in uncooked vegetables cannot be broken down easily for digestion, which means that the nutritious carotenoids in the food aren't absorbed by humans.

They cite studies done in the last two years that have shown that a mere three percent of the beta carotene in raw carrots can be accessed during digestion when eaten alone.

A quick background on carotenoids: they're the pigments that make food red, yellow or orange, and they're good antioxidants. Beta carotene and lycopene may be the best known carotenoids because they're found in carrots and tomatoes respectively, but there are several hundred other carotenoids out there.

Salad diet

For White et al.'s study, volunteers were asked to eat a specially prepared salad on three separate occasions. Ten people participated, although only the results of the seven healthy men and women who successfully completed the study were used for analysis.

Participants were asked to abstain from a list of foods rich in carotenoids for four days prior to each salad-eating session, and to avoid eating anything for 12 hours before the salad was served.

Each volunteer was instructed to scrape all the dressing into the salad, and to make sure all of the dressing was consumed. After the salad was eaten, participants had low-fat lunch and dinner, also prepared by the researchers.

The salad was composed of spinach, cherry tomatoes, romaine lettuce and carrots. For the dressings, a powdered Italian salad dressing mix was combined with white vinegar, water and canola oil. In the regular salad dressing, over half of the liquid was canola oil (28 grams of fat per serving); in the reduced-fat version, only 11 percent (6 grams of fat per serving) was composed of canola oil. And the fat-free salad dressing had no oil added to the powdered mix.

Measuring absorption

Blood samples were drawn from each volunteer every hour for 12 hours. The low-carotenoid, low-fat lunch and dinner were served after the fifth and 10th blood samples were drawn.

White et al. then compared the amounts of carotenoids ingested after the volunteers had eaten the salads topped with three different fat-content dressings based on the carotenoid levels in their bloodstream. They found that practically no carotenoids were absorbed by the volunteers when they ate the salads with the fat-free dressing.

On the other hand, the added fat promoted a-carotene, beta carotene and lycopene absorption when the volunteers had their salads with the reduced-fat dressings.

Following this trend, the regular, i.e., full-fat dressing greatly increased the absorption of the carotenoids.

So if you want to eat healthy and get a salad, reach for the dressing you want, and add some fat like bacon or chicken or olive oil to it so you get the maximum amount of nutrients. But don't take these findings to mean you can eat a bowl of blue cheese with a few carrots and lettuce leaves swimming in the dressing.

As Dr. White told Reuters, "Fat is part of a healthy diet. The key is moderation."

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

Secrets to long life

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

DUBROVNIK, Croatia—We met Bosio Stojanov, an elderly gentleman in a small village just outside the city. He regales visitors with stories of his life during the different wars they've been through, the most recent of which was the Serbian aggressions in October to December 1991 when he and his family had to survive with hardly any food or water for three months.

He spends most of his day checking on his wine and brandy which he makes at home, and selling them in Coca-Cola and other assorted bottles outside a restaurant in the village. They cost four to eight kunas (P40 to P80) per bottle. He places his bottles on a small table with a mid-sized umbrella to offer shade for him and his customers. It looks like he has a thriving business.

Except for a stooping kyphotic posture, he appears to be in the pink of health. You would think he's pulling your leg when he swears that he'll be a hundred years old "in a few years."

"better give than receive"

Brandy, wine each night

We ask him what his secret for a long life is, and he chuckles as he points to his bottles of wine and liquor. He drinks a glass of wine or a shot of brandy each night. He says he places medicinal herbs in them, taught to him by his forebears. But he never drinks in excess.

"Alcohol is poison if [taken] too much," he says. We tasted his brandy and it is a lot stronger than the commercial variety. I instantly felt tipsy with the small amount he gave us to taste.

"Ah, not only this," he says as he raises a bottle of his wine, "but many secrets to good life."

He says his parents died in their 90s; they also worked until a year or two before their deaths when they were already too weak to work.

What he's trying to say is that it's good to be blessed with good genes for a long life, but one should remain active while able.

"Muscles and brain rust when you stop working," he says.

Modern medicine validates that. Sedentary living at any age is a risk factor.

Positive thoughts

"We kill ourselves softly with the way we think and feel," he also stresses.

He never thinks ill even of his enemies. In fact, he can't recall having an enemy. He consciously banishes anything negative from his mind or emotions. He doesn't worry as he trusts that God will provide him with whatever he needs.

"I also don't envy friends and relatives with good fortune," he says. "I sometimes ask for help from them, but if they don't give, I don't feel bad."

Yet he shares whatever little he has when someone comes to him for help.

"Do something good every day, big or small," he advises. He never ends a day without doing a good deed. He says he's a cheerful giver.

He has a good sense of humor. He has a talent for remembering good jokes and enjoys retelling them. We ask for a sample of his jokes, and he obliges with a couple. Honestly they're not too funny, and his timing is a little off. But the way he laughs at his own jokes is heartening enough.

Eat only when hungry

What about his diet? Nothing special, he says. But he eats a lot of vegetables, fruits and cereals, some fish and meat.

He doesn't eat a lot, and eats small servings but more frequently. In fact, he only eats when he's hungry. He laments that modern society sometimes eats for the sake of eating, and some try to throw up after eating just so they can eat more.

A devout Christian, he prays several times a day to praise and thank God. He still enjoys life and lives it with zest, but he is looking forward to the day when he could see God face to face. By then, God would probably tell him, "Well done, my faithful son. Come into my kingdom."

Marine preservation efforts reflect Nestlé environmental commitment

PRESERVING and protecting the environment is a concern which businesses are increasingly taking to heart. Corporations have compelling reasons for doing so since it makes good business sense.

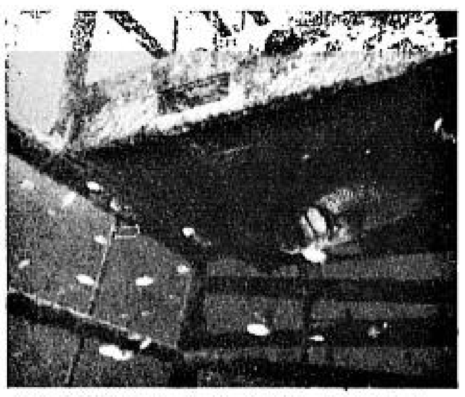
Peter Brabeck-Letmathe, chief executive officer of Nestlé S.A., the world's largest food company, tells why caring for the environment is a high priority: "Our strength and our vulnerability are in the Nestlé name. Therefore, the main objective of our activities must be to create, maintain and increase trust in Nestlé, not only as an economically and financially successful enterprise, but also as a socially responsible company, dedicated to sustainable development."

Environmental initiatives

Not surprisingly, the Nestlé Cagayan de Oro (CDO) factory plans and implements long-term environmental activities. The CDO factory's environmental initiatives include solid waste management, tree-planting and reforestation, urban greening, and keeping the nearby Umalag river clean.

But two of the factory's environmental projects are so unusual that one would need scuba gear to visit the sites, because these are underwater: the Agutayan artificial reef project and the giant clam seeding activity in the Agutayan Marine Sanctuary.

About four years ago, volunteer divers from the CDO factory spearheaded the installation of reef modules under the sea in the previously denuded Agutayan Marine Sanctuary in Jasaan, Misamis Oriental. The artificial reef has since provided food, protection and spawning areas for hundreds of species of fish and other marine organisms.


ARTIFICIAL reefs that were installed have served as spawning areas for fish and other marine organisms.

Starting with 10 reef modules made of concrete, laminates from packaging and iron bars, volunteers have since installed a total of 49 modules to enlarge the reef.

Giant clam seeding

In continued support of the municipality's efforts and to complement the artificial reef project, the CDO volunteers then embarked on a giant clam seeding project, also in the Agutayan Sanctuary. Known scientifically as *Tridacna gigas*, giant clams are almost extinct in Philippine waters. Together with the municipal government, the Marine Ecosystems Council-CDO chapter as project owner, Transpecial Hauling, Magic Divers, Pilipinas Kao, the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary Unit and Bax Global, the factory was the major sponsor in reintroducing some 500 giant clams within the sanctuary.

RECENT monitoring showed that the survival rate of giant clams is at 75 percent.

Actual seeding was held in three areas: the shallow intertidal zone, the sea grass area and the site of the artificial reef modules. Volunteer employees took part in preparations and seeding, while the factory provided logistics to transport the giant clams from Pangasinan, coordinated the construction of cages using recycled materials, and participated in operational planning and execution. Monitoring shows the survival rate of the giant clams is at a stable 75 percent.

"The project has made more people aware that near-extinct species can be reintroduced and sustained if the private sector, LGUs and NGOs work together," said Oliver Caday, CDO logistics manager and head of the project team.

Volunteers continue to be actively involved in monitoring and maintaining the artificial reefs and giant clams. They also hold quarterly dives to check the progress of the reef and clams. Those from Nestlé join the monitoring dives, while the factory provides tanks and other diving gear.

Positive feedback

These environmental initiatives are receiving positive feedback and recognition from various sectors. The projects have helped prove the viability of marine sanctuaries, Caday said, with initially reluctant fishermen now saying their catch around the sanctuary has improved.

The municipal government of Jasaan presented Nestlé with an award for its partnership in preserving the Agutayan Marine Sanctuary. Mayor Huberto Paurom of Jasaan has also prevailed upon the municipal council to expand the marine sanctuary in honor of the two projects.

But the Nestlé CDO factory is not about to rest on its laurels. "The factory's marine preservation efforts are a reflection of Nestlé's environmental commitment," said Nestlé CDO factory manager Rudy Trillanes. "We are not content merely to comply with discharge and emission standards. Nestlé is concerned about broader environmental issues, and the marine projects are concrete ways of helping increase public awareness on the value of preserving and protecting the environment."

HEPATITIS B VACCINE FOR NEEDY KIDS
SciGen Ltd., represented by Saul Mashaal, chair and CEO of SciTech Group and executive vice chair of SciGen, donates Sci-B-Vac 5mcg for children below 10 years old to fight hepatitis B. The vaccines are presented to Sr. Eva Fidela Maamo, head of Our Lady of Peace Mission Hospital and 1997 Ramon Magsaysay awardee for community leadership. Also shown are Sisters Henrietta Esmero and Francesca San Diego.

Unilab launches portal for health professionals

UNITED Laboratories (Unilab) recently launched its HealthCare Professionals website www.unilab.com.ph/hcp, an up-to-date, one-stop digital medical reference for Filipino health professionals, at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila.

The Unilab HealthCare Professionals website is replete with the latest news, studies, breakthroughs and clinical practice guidelines in the medical community.

Health professionals may also brush up on their knowledge of common Filipino ailments and get updates on upcoming conventions, seminars and other medical activities. They may also learn new insights from the featured medical experts in the Guest Experts section.

Linkage

The website also has links to PubMed Central (PMC), the digital archive of life sciences journal literature of the US National Library of Medicine, and MedScape, an international portal for integrated medical information and educational tools.

A Product Information Resource section is also available where health professionals can get more information on quality and affordable medicines for patients through the Unilab Pharmacoeconomics page.

Anecdotes

An added treat for medical professionals is the Unwind Page where they can share anecdotes and funny stories at home or at work.

The HealthCare Professionals website is a service to the medical profession by Unilab in its desire to provide health professionals with better solutions in patient management, thereby enabling them to deliver the best value in health care to Filipino families.

Natural, effective defense vs diseases

THE ONSET of the rainy season brings with it many diseases, afflicting mostly schoolchildren and even adults.

A person may get infected by air-borne, food or water-borne viruses and bacteria or through direct contact with active carriers or individuals already infected with the disease.

A healthy body is the first defense against sickness. And using the healthiest edible—like virgin coconut oil—in preparing your food can significantly boost the body's defense against diseases prevalent during the rainy season.

Virgin coco oil

Virgin coconut oil, like the one produced by Nature's Blessings, has long been regarded as a "miracle oil" because of its proven efficacy in fighting diseases, from common ailments like colds and influenza to serious degenerative diseases like hypertension, diabetes and cancer.

The saturated fat acid in coconut oil is identical to a special group of fats found in human breastmilk called medium fatty acids (MCFA).

Benefits to health

They have been shown to stimulate metabolism, improve digestion, strengthen the immune system and protect against bacterial, viral and fungal infections as well as protect the heart and the arteries.

Coconut oil has long been used as an effective remedy for skin diseases and is a main ingredient in preparation of skin ointments. It is a common household remedy for ringworm, itch and other skin diseases.

These rainy days, it is therefore advisable to safeguard your family with the natural and beneficial properties of Nature's Blessings Virgin Coconut Oil by using it as your day-to-day nutritional oil.

Nature's Blessings Virgin Coconut Oil is also available as a scented body oil. Use it to care not only for the skin but also to soothe the muscles, nourish the hair and relax the body.

For more information, log on to www.naturesblessings.com.ph.

TB seal campaign introduced Aug. 31

TUBERCULOSIS is a major health problem in the country. In fact, the Philippines is one of 16 countries where tuberculosis remains uncontrolled.

In the Asia Pacific, the Philippines has the most reported cases of the disease. It is the fifth major cause of death, with 75 Filipinos dying from the disease daily.

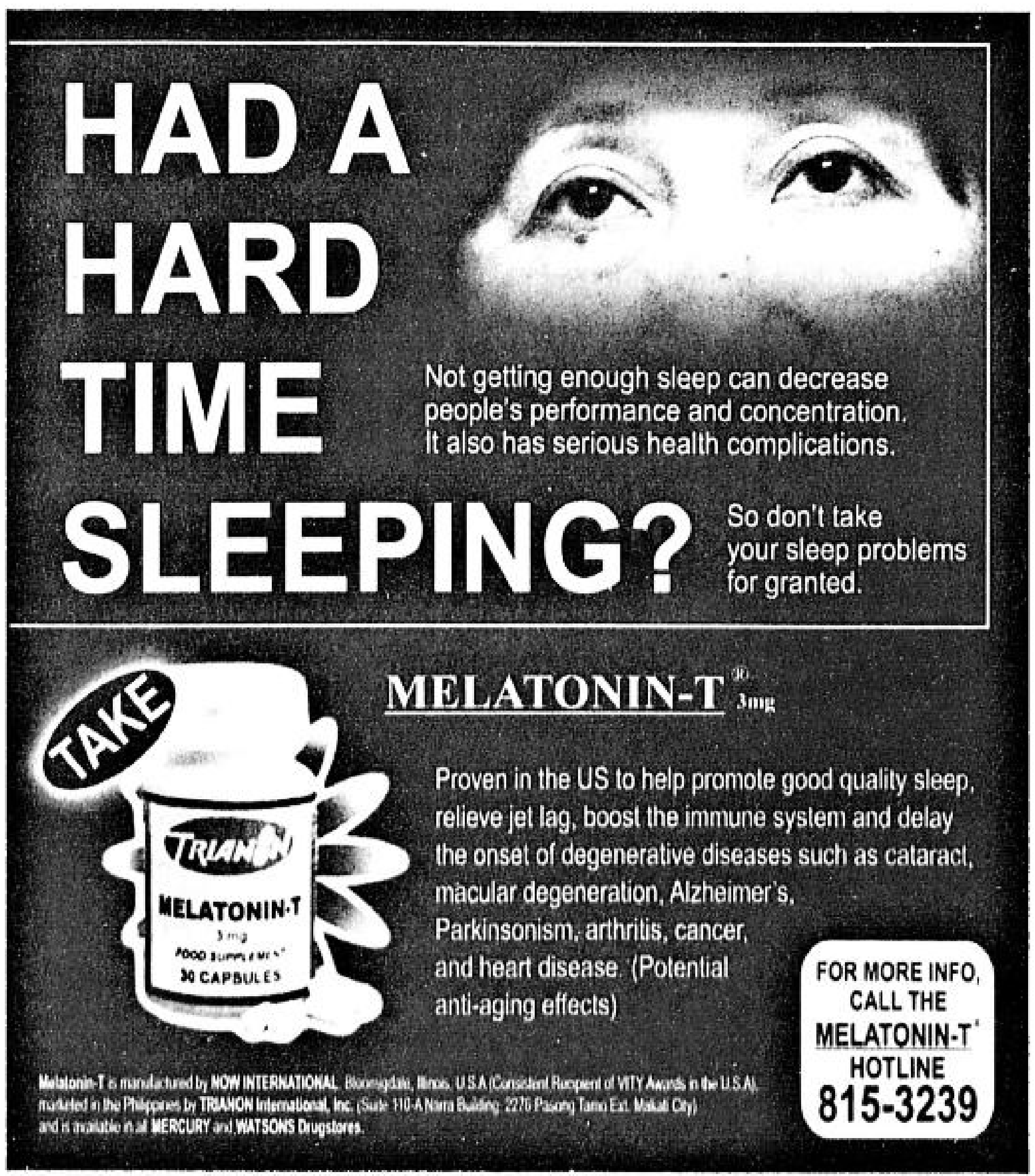
The Philippine Tuberculosis Society is a nonstock, nonprofit charitable institution established in 1910 by a group of concerned Filipinos and Americans. At that time, the country's eight million inhabitants were already threatened by a TB mortality rate of 480 in a group of 100,000 people.

Today, the figures have expanded greatly and the need remains urgent, perhaps even more so. One of the group's perennial activities calls for the distribution of TB seals as a means of financing its anti-TB projects.

For this year, the Philippine Tuberculosis Society will be launching its TB seal campaign on Aug. 31 at noon at the Shangri-La Cuisine at 4 Times St. corner West Avenue, Quezon City.

Themed "Philippine Flowers Festival," the TB seal campaign focuses on the celebration of our native flora, featuring the works and reproductions of 35 prominent Filipino artists.

TB seals can be currently purchased at your local postal offices.



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Ford to buy ₱17B worth of RP car parts

PURISIMA

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FORD Motor Co. has earmarked about $305 million or P17 billion to buy local automotive parts for use in its vehicles in North America, Europe and Japan, according to Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima.

The trade chief yesterday said this was on top of the estimated $28 million or P1.5 billion a year being spent by Ford's local unit for purchases from its 52 local suppliers.

"These automotive parts makers supply about 1,200 different components of Ford vehicles for both domestic and export models," Purisima said.

The official urged other multinational and Filipino-owned companies, especially those operating in the provinces, to help spur growth in the countryside by involving small enterprises in their supply chain.

"By just being part of the large companies' supply chain, small and medium businesses can stir economic activities and create more livelihood opportunities in the countryside," he said.

Purisima said more of such benefits were expected from Ford's operations as it broadened its completely-built vehicles export market in the region.

Also yesterday, Ford Motor Co. Philippines held a ceremonial send-off of the first batch of export of Ford Escape sports utility vehicles to Malaysia.

Since the launch of the Ford export program in 2002, locally made Ford and Mazda vehicles—such as the Ford Escape and Tierra, and the Mazda Tribute and Protege, have been shipped to Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore.

To date, a total of 21,000 completely built units assembled in Ford's Laguna production plant have been exported.

Ford expects total exports to reach 16,000 vehicles this year and more than 100,000 units within the next five years.

Ford's export program has so far generated $300 million from the sale of locally made Ford vehicles overseas." Ford's CBU export program is a solid proof of the country's capability to provide the necessary infrastructure to firms who would like to make the Philippines their manufacturing hub in Asia," Purisima said earlier.

While benefiting the economy as a whole, Purisima said Ford's vehicle export activities likewise jacked up the revenues of local parts manufacturers, with the car giant buying some $260 million worth of components last year.

Why move to Bonifacio Ridge?

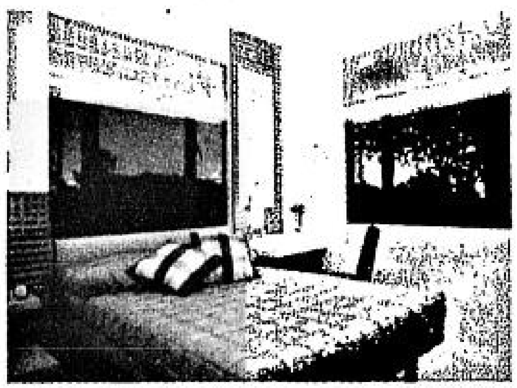
✓ ***No need to wait.*** By October of this year, Bonifacio Ridge will be completely ready. So you can move into your new home in just a few short months.

✓ ***Now on the rise in the new Bonifacio Global City.*** This residential condominium is strategically situated in the most modern and fully master-planned business district in the country.

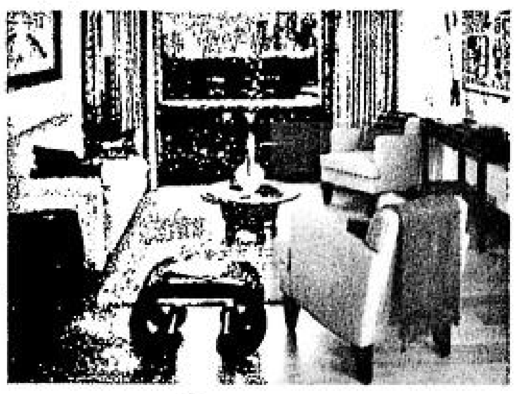
✓ ***Right at the heart of modern living.*** It is close to the Manila Golf Course, to schools, commercial and entertainment centers, public services, office spaces and soon a world-class hospital facility.

✓ ***Two towers that echo beauty and indulgence.*** Bonifacio Ridge is a beautifully crafted two-tower (Cypress Point and Spanish Bay Towers) residential condominium with a shared podium surrounded by exquisitely sculpted landscape and all the things that spell out a good life.

✓ ***An abundance of open space.*** This low-density community is located at the northwestern portion of the Bonifacio Global City, making it less crowded and giving residents more room for play.



✓ ***Going beyond your needs.*** Escape from the frantic pace of city life the moment you enter the lobby. Complete top-of-the-line amenities are also found at the podium level where you can take a private dip in the pool, do a quick run at the jogging area, or mingle with neighbors at the multi-purpose hall. Little children also have their own kiddie pool and play area.



✓ ***It is all in the details.*** Enjoy living spaces that truly enhance the way you live. Residences afford generous space and are designed for entertaining while enjoying the panoramic views.

✓ ***Luxury and high style within your means.*** Units are made more affordable through flexible payment options. BPI, Metrobank, Equitable-PCI, or Banco de Oro can finance up to 80% of total purchase price, enabling buyers to avail of cash discounts with only 20% equity.

✓ ***Unmatched standards.*** Backed by the quality and maintenance of an Ayala-managed property, Bonifacio Ridge is the perfect setting for the kind of lifestyle so many individuals crave for.

Driven by comfort, beauty, luxury and simplicity, Bonifacio Ridge is the ideal community for young executives, baby-boomers, empty nesters and retirees, as well as investors seeking to make a secure financial decision. Designed for homeowners of all ages, it has successfully created an upscale, vibrant community that meets the needs of all its residents. Unique in value, view, price and location, Bonifacio Ridge is truly something you can count on because it was made for you.

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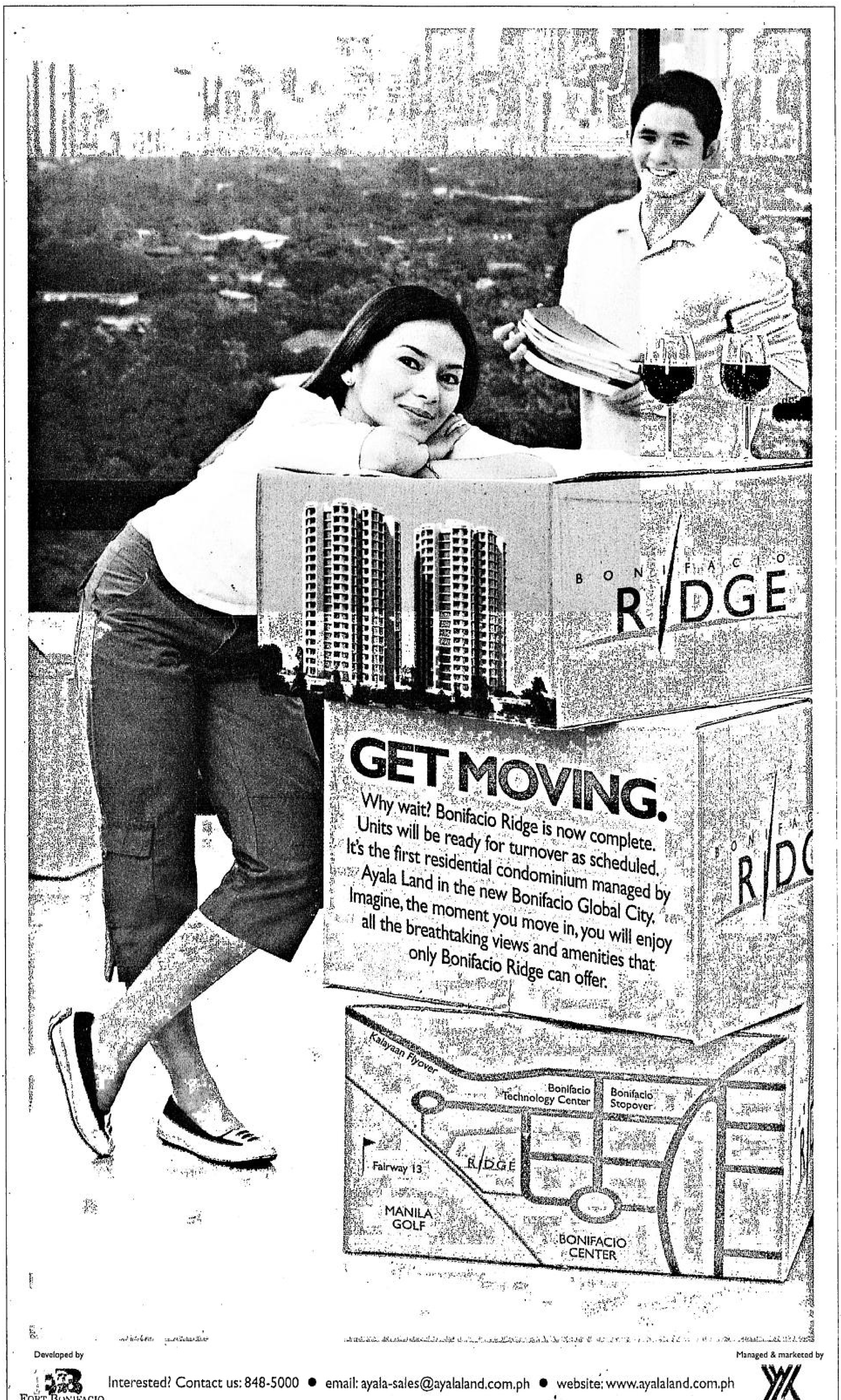

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Nothing is impossible

... and impossible is nothing at this time when long-held fears are being shattered

By Marge C. Enriquez

IF PEOPLE tell you that something can't be done, don't believe them. Otherwise the adages, "Where there's a will, there's a way" and "Nothing is impossible" would never have been invented. Adidas recently launched a campaign tweaking the "Nothing is impossible" saying, to "Impossible is nothing." The message is a sign of these times when long-held beliefs and values—and fears—are being shattered.

"First what do you call impossible? Who decides what's impossible?" asked **Mohini Punjabi**, international lecturer and Brahma Kumaris' representative to the United Nations' Economic and Social Council. "If I say something is impossible, then I'm acknowledging my limitations. Just as there are difficult tasks or adverse situations, there are also potential solutions."

Mohini was in Manila recently to conduct lectures. In an interview with ÉLAN, she pointed out that this is the time to go beyond limits. "Never think that what I am today, is what I will always be. The more you get in touch with your true self, the more your boundaries are broken. Limits change to limitless," she said.

Source of strength

Of negaholics and naysayers, she explained, "First the mind has accepted that a situation is impossible. That's a disadvantage." She underscored the need for faith in the self and in destiny. "It's important to believe that everything is possible. With this faith, you are able to use the energy of your thoughts and intelligence. The human being has many powers that haven't been used. Believing that everything is possible creates hope in the self and in others. If I say, 'It's impossible,' then I am closing the door on myself and others."

She added that such people have been lodged in comfort zones that they refuse to get out of. "There's no change, no effort. Then it becomes impossible. If you say 'I can't do it!' How do you know, have you tried?" With effort, there is luck.

Mohini recalled that once, in a big airport, an elderly woman nearly missed her flight when, a few minutes before departure time, she discovered that she was in the wrong terminal. She was 30 gates away and could not get a wheelchair. Since she wanted very much to catch her flight, she decided to walk. Feeble and accustomed to being assisted, she took a few faltering steps at the start, but was soon walking faster... and faster, until she boarded the plane.

As she sat down beside Mohini, the woman said, "I'm so happy today. I didn't realize I could walk so fast."

"Certain situations can bring out your hidden powers, but you need will power and determination," Mohini explained. "There is another part of the human being which still accepts challenges."

It's easy to blame the environment or the past for imposing limits on ourselves. Mohini said we can regain our freedom. "When you start removing social conditioning and start believing everything is possible, then the strength will come. Everything can be done."

Mohini's affirmation is "Never lose hope." That's why she looks much younger than her sixty-something years. She never allows herself to get upset, worry or waste mental energy. With the increasing doom-and-gloom scenario in the world today and global apprehension brought about by inflation and scarcity, Mohini pointed out: "Fear makes us weak. The human being has the natural capacity to deal with any situation."

She warned that technology can break down anytime, without any warning. It's always good to stock up on such supplies as candles, matches, canned foods, batteries and drinking water, she said, but the best way to ward off fear of scarcity is by inculcating a generous attitude.

"Instead of thinking what the world can offer me, I have to start thinking of what can I offer to the world," Mohini said. Of course there will always be people who will claim that society is deteriorating, so what's the use of transformation? Mohini said: "How can we expect the world to be a better place if people don't want to change? They should learn lessons from history. Everyone is looking for something new and different. When they are trapped in limited thinking, they don't know how to come out of that. For me, every individual should take responsibility. An awakening should happen in one's own life. Listen to that call for change in outlook. That change is very important in human life."

***

Just finished my show, "Inside Out," at Onstage Theater. I was exhilarated, as I had a scaled a mountain, so to speak; but also exhausted from

NOTHING/ C2

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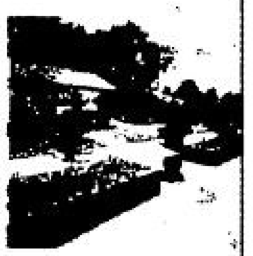

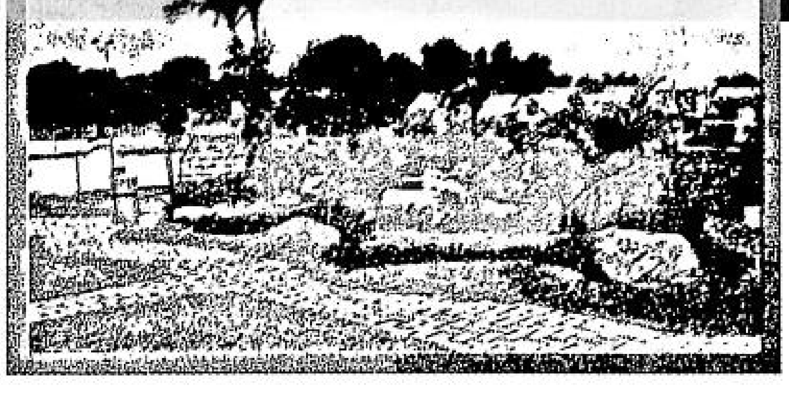

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The lady means business

Don't be fooled by the wavy tresses, the fashion savvy, the fancy footwear–she's no country-club wife

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Patrick Uy

CATHERINE Rose "Crickette" Yu Tantoco can't leave home without being dolled up. Don't be fooled by the wavy tresses, the fashion savvy, the plunging neckline, the fancy footwear or the Tiffany bangles that make her look like a country-club wife (which she says is on her wish list). She thrives in a pressure-packed environment. When she talks—and she talks fast—she means business.

As vice-president of marketing and merchandising for Rustan's Superstores Inc., she's lead merchant for all the buying activities of Shopwise and must deliver the sales and gross profit for the company.

Crickette explains: "The board has very high hurdle rates. Because we constantly want to improve, we're always raising the standards for the customer experience or within the industry, whether it's in visual merchandising or store design, lowering costs or increasing the revenue. The board doesn't benchmark against local players but against the best in the region. Anytime you're in profit responsibility—which merchandising is—you're constantly monitoring cash flow. You're looking at the bottom and top lines. When there are fluctuations in the economy, you have to change your plans."

Her husband, Bienvenido "Donnie" Tantoco III, president of Rustan's Superstores Inc., and the branches in Alabang, Makati and Libis led Shopwise to break even last year with P3.7-billion in net sales—which is a record since, by international standards, a hypermart needs six stores to make a profit.

Crickette's job is also subjected to menacing deadlines set by the short cycles of trends and the unpredictable whims of the market. "Retail never stands still. Nobody waits for you. The customer decides the new trends. You have to be in touch with that," she says. Thinking up marketing tacks for special events and sourcing merchandise was not in her game plan. She wanted to be a lawyer, but ended up as a *tindera* or vendor.

"The heavens conspired against me!" she exclaims.

Little beetle

Crickette's mother wanted to name her firstborn after the Beatles. When it turned it out to be a girl, she gave her the monicker Crickette, figuring it was a female enough version of "beetle." As a young girl Crickette was thus exposed to retailing, with her mother selling fashion items.

While studying political science at Marymount College in New York, Crickette worked at Tiffany's, The Sock Shop, and moved up from cashier to assistant store manager at Ann Taylor: "Maybe that was my path, but I was resisting it. When I married Donnie, the opportunity presented itself."

Crickette looks much younger than her 39 years, dedicated as she is to everything she does, including a fitness regimen (she lost 12 pounds playing badminton and doing Pilates).

She met her future husband on a blind date for her high school prom. She was thrilled by his square-jaw handsomeness and suave manners, but romance didn't blossom until they met again in New York where they both went to college. In 1989, they were married; they were both 22.

They lived in Hong Kong, where her mother-in-law, Marina Vargas Tantoco, ran a flower shop that also offered decor. Crickette handled merchandising and the accounts for Christmas decor and flowers. The shop decorated big establishments and hotels such as The Peninsula, Mandarin, Marriott, Island Shangri-la, Pacific Place and other Swire Properties.

Donnie pursued his MBA at Northwestern University and worked in Pepsi and General Mills in Minneapolis. In 1993, his grandmother, retail pioneer Gliceria Tantoco offered him a job at the family-owned Royal Duty-Free Shops Inc. in Subic and Clark.

Crickette worked in the warehouse, bought the products and later became assistant general manager. She recalls: "You could not rely on anybody except yourself. Our first shipment was late and the airport was not ready. There was no baggage handling facilities. We unloaded the goods from the plane ourselves. We boarded buses and jeeps to hand out fliers."

Youthful courage

Charge it to youthful derring-do and enthusiasm. "When you're young, nobody can tell you what you can do and can't do. It's better to enter into it with naiveté. You do a lot of things that are not done and you can change everything," she says.

The diligence and determination paid off. From a far third place in the list of shopping destinations in the freeport zones, Royal Subic Duty Free became number one as a result of bullish marketing.

A turning point came in 1997 when an executive order removed duty-free shopping privileges from the local market. With that devastating impact on the business, the Tantocos had to reinvent their organization. During one of their trips, they were inspired by the hypermart store in Madrid called Pryca. With venture capital fund and assistance from Donnie's grandfather, Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco, chair of the Rustan's Group of Companies, they established Shopwise, the first supercenter in the country. Since the Tantocos wanted a store set amid green fields that would serve 150,000 households, Alabang fit the bill. A consultant from WalMart patterned it after the American supercenters that had a racetrack layout and the major sections on the periphery.

Shopwise opened at the height of the Asian flu in 1997. Although the first year was the toughest in terms of establishing a reputation, the success rate was almost 40 percent. Amid a competitive environment, Shopwise opened three other stores that were patterned after European hypermarts with main thoroughfares and destination departments. The market appreciated the long store hours, the wide aisles and such perks as the Elite and Wise Cards, the health and beauty sections, fresh produce, and the vast assortment of chocolates. The home department, linens, Christmas decor, the stylish and wallet-friendly bags and accessories sourced from across the region, have been posting double-digit growth.

The flagship store in Alabang remains the largest and most profitable of the four stores and contributes 33 percent to total company sales. On its fifth year, the growth rate is 8 percent, higher than expected.

Despite a gloomy economy, business this year has been brisk compared with last year, with double-digit sales posted, compared with last year, says Crickette. She attributes it to wise planning, astute management and promotions cut out for its market, mostly young families in the middle and upper classes.

Halves of a whole

Crickette corrects the misimpression in the lifestyle circle that she's the power behind the Shopwise supercenters. "That's not true," she maintains. "Donnie takes care of finance, IT, infrastructure, human resources, corporate relations—everything in the back office. My job is up front. I used to handle store construction and operations. Now I hire people. Donnie and I share responsibilities now. We're two halves of a whole. I can't imagine not working with him."

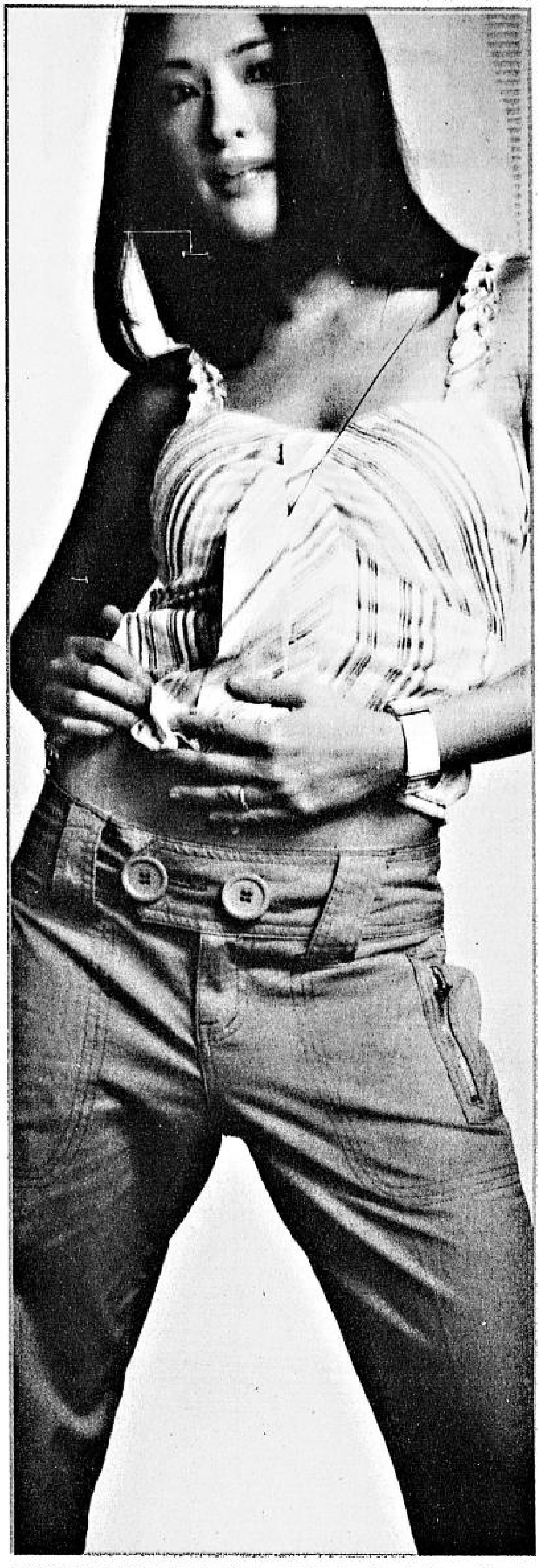
Comparing their management styles, Crickette says: "Donnie is more nurturing. He's diplomatic and very open. My style is, immediate feedback—I tell you right away if I am pleased or displeased. Everything is seen on my face. Mine is dog war."

"Okay, I raise my voice," she admits sheepishly. "Donnie never does. But if you're dealing with operations and rank-and-file, sometimes you can't help it. They say you don't spank a child, but when a child is going to reach for something that's not good for him, you have to spank so that he knows it's wrong. It's the same concept."

Crickette's carrot-and-stick approach seems effective. She has earned the respect of the employees, especially the seniors, by setting an example of hard work and integrity. "You don't steal company time," she points out. "I work in big projects. I don't take commissions or little gifts."

To the staff, she is a refreshing challenge to work with. "In my organization, you can't touch my people without going through me. I protect and support them. Every evaluation, they cry in gratitude because I am honest with them. If I ask them to do something for me, they will go to the ends of the earth."

Hair and makeup by Patrick Rosas, Noel Jimenez, Ruel Jorillo
Clothes by Viseversa



TANTOCO. Fashion becomes her—and so does the challenge of work.

VAL HANDUMON

THE DATE and time of GMA's inauguration fortell a regime that has a healthy economic outlook.

GMA's inauguration chart and the country's outlook

There is a need for solid spirituality if corruption is to be curbed and finally eradicated

By Georgina C. Solina, *Contributor*

A REMARKABLE event happened on President Macapagal-Arroyo's inauguration.

As tropical storm "Igme" raged in other parts of the country, the sun shone brightly in Cebu City where she was to take her oath at noon. This could signifiy hope for the country's grave ills.

Based on the planetary energies of that date, June 30, 2004, the presidency needs courage and must doggedly forge ahead, unfazed by threatening skies or uncertainties of the future. The Sun, symbol of power, is placed in the horoscope's 9th house of foreign relations and is juxtaposed to the chart's topmost point—the Midheaven, or point of honor. It is also affixed to Saturn (cosmic principle of discipline, duty and reward) and Mercury (serious thought).

The bond of Saturn-Sun, or the energies of law and power, impels the President to fulfill her obligations to the people even if they run against personal desires. This position affects our relations with other countries. As though on cue, her most difficult decision at the onset of her new term was to recall the Filipino troops in Iraq to save the life of OFW Angelo de la Cruz.

Many may assume that the demands of Saturn (restrictions) will deny the Filipinos some gratification in Ms Arroyo's term. Not necessarily. In fact, what she is bound to accomplish during her six-year term may have more lasting significance for the country's future than could be attained under any other planetary transit.

Economic growth

The country will experience economic growth, since this is her major concern, along with controlling the population, the continued growth of which negates all our economic gains. She will be concerned with reforms in order to trim down excesses in budgetary expenditures, as influenced by the Sun-Saturn requirement for discipline and conservation of resources. This placement is also excellent for organizing and long-term planning. However, she should be careful not to burden the people unnecessarily with more taxes.

Physically, the Sun-Saturn consolidation can signify a time of low energy. This means the President should concentrate on her priorities. If she leaves them undone, depression and enervation would press down upon her and the people. She has little to fear, though, because she is guided and protected by God for as long as she works for the benefit of the country. This is shown by a salutary Grand Trine planetary formation in the chart.

Another significant element in the chart is the the 9th House of foreign relations, the arena of power that enables us to become better human beings. Venus, which represents the coming of new harmony in the world, sits on an apex of pyramidal energies in the 9th house of higher mind and foreign affairs. From the apex, these energies flow down to the Ascendant in Libra and Neptune in the 5th house of the heart and creativity. With Venus in the 9th House, the people will have an incredible experience that will broaden their outlook and bring about spiritual and material growth (Venus rules spiritual love, peace, and money). Because the 9th sector also governs the higher mind of man, the people will derive the most benefit from studies in philosophy, religion, metaphysics and travels for work or pleasure.

New breed

As the population increases, there will be more social problems. For instance, the educational system has to be modified to suit the new breed of children. Many children born in the past two decades manifest psychological abnormalities such as autism, attention deficit syndrome and hyperactivity. On the other hand, there will be children with advance intelligence. Also, those who indulge in occult studies, culled from the influx of books on ancient beliefs and information from the Net. There is a revival of goddess worship or atavistic practices. Young people will experiment and lead to anti-social behavior. There might be a tendency towards anti-social behavior and a taste for pleasure through unhealthy forms of excitement.

All these phenomena are explained by Uranus, planet of revolutionary ideas and sudden changes, located in the 5th sector of creativity, with negative influences from the moon, Mercury and Venus.

Stock market activities could bring abrupt changes in fortune. But the Sun-Saturn combination serves to check and balance. It reminds us of the dangers of too much expansion, too much freedom, allowing an unstructured line of behavior among adults and growing children. There's a need to conserve resources and maintain balance in all human affairs, including foreign affairs. Sun and Saturn together connote austerity, discipline, and simplicity, and induce the people to stick to conventional sexual morality.

Relationships will be more stable as partners become more mature. They will be more giving because they will be more spiritual, a Grand Trine or pyramid energy involving Venus, Ascendant and Neptune. Neptune represents the divine heart and reminds everyone to have more faith and confidence. At its best, this position enables people to deal with one another with more compassion and forgiveness.

People will learn to put others first, because the Venus-Neptune bond stirs selfless and spiritual love. However, the dreamy quality of these two planetary energies may delude some into thinking that they are exhibiting these ethereal characteristics when they are really just wandering about in a fog. For the government, there will be a need for solid spirituality if corruption is to be curbed and finally eradicated. Our survival as a nation depends on this.

Email the author at solhaus@mindgate.net.

Nothing is impossible

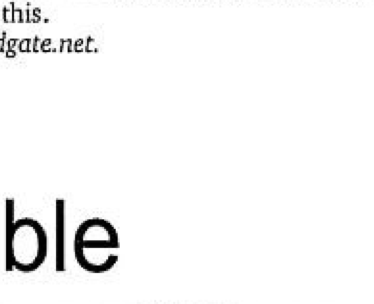
From page C1

all the preparation. The fatigue caught up with me while doing the July 31 issue. In the theater review of "Art," the credit for playing Ivan should have gone to Jaime del Mundo who wowed the audience with his delivery of kilometric lines. Although he is sometimes mistaken for Faustmann, the latter is clean-shaven.

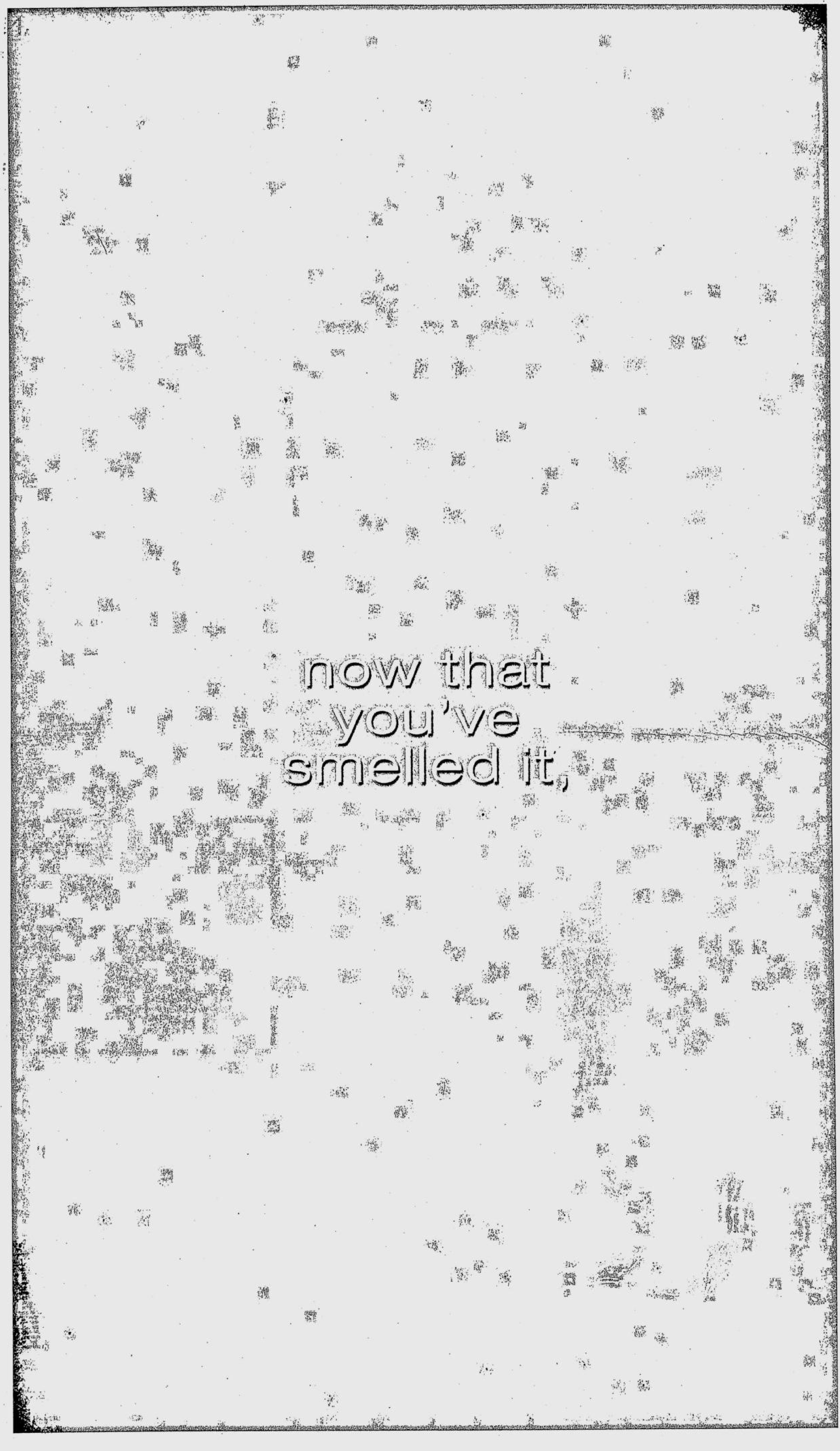
Then in the Season's story, the blue marlin was mislabeled as *lapu-lapu*. There is no excuse, even for a strict vegetarian who wouldn't look at an animal on the dinner table.

Last but not least, Joel Magsaysay implored us to mind our geography, saying his Ilog Maria Bee Farm had been in Silang, Cavite for 27 years not in Tagaytay or Alfonso.

Now, in **Teddy Montelibano**'s story about Massimo in Tagaytay, I made sure that the *canard* will not be mistaken for the *bistecca*—they are both brown, finely sliced, and served with starches. If you really like Italian food, you'll have to look outside Manila. Meals at Massimo are hearty and creative, not like this over-rated and overpriced restaurant in Greenbelt.



JAIME del Mundo



now that
you’ve
smelled it,

PIZZA, Italian style: Thin crust, rosy slices of meat and fresh arugula

I dream of Italy

Only 90 minutes from Manila, in cool and lush environs, I find the next best thing

By Teddy Y. Montelibano, *Contributor*

HAZEL and Chito Galvez:Perfect match

CANARD (duck breast) to die for, with mushrooms and risotto

COOL, clean air, lush environs and the birth of a son, Massimo—after whom she named her restaurant—has tempered Hazel Lu Galvez's obsession for authenticity in her manner of cooking but not her passion for turning out superb food.

The Italian-educated chef operates the 70-seat café in Tagaytay City with her husband, Chito Galvez. We heard about Hazel's formidable reputation from bee-farmer Joel Magsaysay of Silang, Cavite. He described her as "probably the best chef in Tagaytay but with a temperament to match her skill in the kitchen!"

We wanted to see exactly what he meant, of course, which brought us to Hazel's place a few weeks ago. The two-level restaurant is along the road to Mahogany Market in the city's Royal Pines Subdivision. The building used to be the subdivision's clubhouse which the couple leased a few years back.

On the second floor, the menu is written neatly on a blackboard set against the wall outside the chef's smallish kitchen, just like in country restaurants in Europe. It is a substantial menu which includes two set meals. The first, at P1,950 for two persons, includes cream of squash, salad, *bistecca a la Florentina* (which, we were told, was top-grade US prime beef), tiramisu and coffee. The lower-priced set, at P950, comprised of leek and onion bisque, salad, roast Chilean sea bass, panna cotta and coffee.

Asked if we could have the *bistecca* sans the rest of the items in the set, the chef said certainly. For starters, we picked what we were earlier told was a must, hot artichoke dip (P195). We also had mushroom soup with truffle oil (P165), and a warm mushroom salad (P175).

There were only two entries under pasta: pancetta e piselli (P245) and *shrimp fra diavolo* (P295). We passed these up for a pizza instead, *prosciutto ed arugula* (P325), the dearest among a selection of four. Our second consisted of three of the five main entrees—sea scallops on saffron risotto with parsley oil (P545), *magret de canard* (P695), and lamb shank *osso buco* (P545), plus the 400-gram *bistecca a la florentina* (P1,500).

From QC via Italy

As we waited for the food, we learned that Hazel, born to pure Chinese parents and raised in Mindanao, had gone to the University of the Philippines and traded her investment banker's suit for chef's whites and clogs after spending four months in the Italian Culinary Institute for Foreigners in Costigliole d'Asti in the Piamonte region of northern Italy. Three more months of apprenticeship in restaurants in Italy and then she came home to Manila where, after a year, in January 2000, she married her boyfriend, businessman Chito Galvez.

Hazel was eight months pregnant with Massimo when they first put up a small authentic Italian restaurant in New Manila, A Tavolo. "Joel [Magsaysay] must have been referring to that part of my life when, fresh out of Italian culinary school, I was very idealistic in my cooking," Hazel said, laughing. Indeed, she seemed too pleasant and engaging to be possessed of the kind of temperament that Magsaysay spoke of.

A Tavolo generated some good reviews, but Hazel found it difficult to attend to while she was big with child. Admittedly, she was also a little frustrated over the inaccessibility of the ingredients that she wanted to use then. After eight months, they closed down the restaurant.

She gave birth to Massimo and, deciding it was not ideal to raise their child in "dirty, polluted Quezon City," the couple moved to Tagaytay in late 2001. A year and a half later, Chito succeeded in pushing Hazel back to the kitchen where she lords over a lean staff—"three including me and, on weekends, my husband, and two waiters."

Yummy

The first of the dishes we ordered was served. In the past, I've had soup, salad and starters, which had sent me off to some blissful realm, only to be doused with disappointment when the rest of the meal came. Thus, I was compelled to restrain myself while partaking of the truffle oil-laced mushroom soup, which I had with crisp bread smeared heavily with the hot artichoke dip. The salad was three kinds of lettuce and arugula mixed with oyster mushrooms that had been popped into the oven with melted mozarella, and a dressing of balsamic vinegar. Very good.

A non-compromising vegetarian in the group had a special set of dishes—chunky tomato soup and salad greens from the backyard with a tart dressing, crisp apple tart on an ethereal pastry shell. I had a taste of the filo-wrapped feta and spinach and a piece of chocolate bread, with bits of chocolate, spread with homemade blue cheese. I felt like purring from sheer pleasure. Still, I reminded myself, the real test was yet to come.

I had deliberately asked for the *magret de canard* because I find duck too gamy, and I wanted to see whether or not Hazel's rendition would do anything to my palate vis-à-vis duck meat.

The *bistecca* and the *magret de canard*, both done medium-rare, were brought to the table almost at the same time. Happily, the portions were not unattractively humongous. I had a slice of the *bistecca*—which had been slightly marinated in and drizzled with balsamic vinegar, and thus charred well—and it was all I could do to keep myself from humming as I am wont to do when the food is delicious. I next reached out for a slice of the *magret de canard* and, I swear, it was the best roast duck breast I had ever tasted! The duck, said the chef, had been specifically raised to make *foie gras*, and that for seasoning, she had used only salt, pepper and a little brandy for glazing.

I swooned over the *magret de canard*, which I had with the heavenly truffle oil-drizzled *porcini* and shiitake risotto in pure mushroom stock, which Hazel had topped with a teaspoonful of butter just before it was served. The latter is not in the menu but can be specially ordered.

The lamb shank was also tasty but, to be honest, not remarkable compared to the two other meat dishes alongside it. I also found the scallops with saffron-soaked risotto a little too rich. But overall, this did not diminish my enjoyment of one of the most exceptional meals I'd had in recent memory.

Sweet dreams

Our table sang a chorus of superlatives as the meal ended with a trio of genuinely pure homemade gelato, alongside the chef's seductive chocolate cake stuffed full of Belgian-imported Callebaut chocolate in the middle; cheese cake with Kahlua coffee liquer, espresso and a thin chocolate crust; and Galvez's panna cotta which virtually melted in the mouth.

We were bursting at the seams, but we had to accept the offer of piping hot coffee from an excellent blend of beans roasted especially for the Galvezes by Jamica, a small coffee company in Silang, Cavite run by *balikbayan* couple Totoy and Evelyn Asuncion.

As it turned out, the hot brew was necessary, or we would have fallen asleep at the wheel on the drive home.

To be sure, my dreams that night were of *porchetta* (baked whole roast pork) which the Galvezes enticed us with for our next visit. It certainly is huge comfort to know that one can have a next-to-genuine taste of Italy only 90 minutes away from Manila.

Massimo's Cafe is located at the entrance, Royal Pines Subdivision, before Mahogany Market, Tagaytay City. Call mobile phone 0916-371-5449 or tel. nos. (046)860-2247 and (046)413-0881 for reservations. Open 10:30 a.m. for lunch Tuesday till Sunday all through dinner with last order at 9 p.m. Tuesday till Thursday and Sunday; and 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Closed Mondays.

BOOK REVIEWS

The female gaze of the boy

A celebration of the ephemeral loveliness of the male who's no longer a child but not yet a man

By Leovino Ma. Garcia
Contributor

The Boy
By Germaine Greer
London: Thames & Hudson, 2003, 256 p.

GERMAINE GREER THE BOY
with 206 illustrations, 177 in colour
Thames & Hudson

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E-mail the author at lgarcia@ateneo.edu.

Mixed messages

'You're promiscuous if you do everything, and a prude if you do nothing'

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
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To a certain extent, that may be true. We do not have to look very far. I grew up in a very cloistered, very Catholic, very conservative environment. And though I hate to sound like my parents, being a teenager in the '80s was very different from being a teenager now. The media and changing social norms have allowed kids today so much more freedom than we had in our time.

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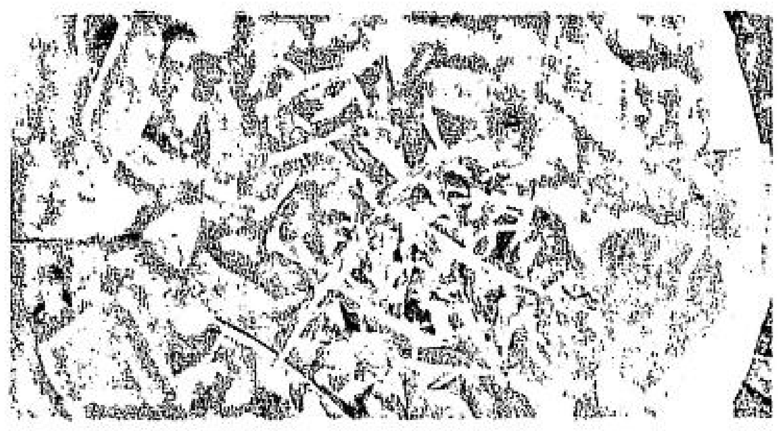
PIZZA, Italian style: Thin crust, rosy slices of meat and fresh arugula

HAZEL and Chito Galvez:Perfect match

CANARD (duck breast) to die for, with mushrooms and risotto

I dream of Italy

Only 90 minutes from Manila, in cool and lush environs, I find the next best thing

By Teddy Y. Montelibano, *Contributor*

COOL, clean air, lush environs and the birth of a son, Massimo—after whom she named her restaurant—has tempered Hazel Lu Galvez's obsession for authenticity in her manner of cooking but not her passion for turning out superb food.

The Italian-educated chef operates the 70-seat café in Tagaytay City with her husband, Chito Galvez. We heard about Hazel's formidable reputation from bee-farmer Joel Magsaysay of Silang, Cavite. He described her as "probably the best chef in Tagaytay but with a temperament to match her skill in the kitchen!"

We wanted to see exactly what he meant, of course, which brought us to Hazel's place a few weeks ago. The two-level restaurant is along the road to Mahogany Market in the city's Royal Pines Subdivision. The building used to be the subdivision's clubhouse which the couple leased a few years back.

On the second floor, the menu is written neatly on a blackboard set against the wall outside the chef's smallish kitchen, just like in country restaurants in Europe. It is a substantial menu which includes two set meals. The first, at P1,950 for two persons, includes cream of squash, salad, *bistecca a la Florentina* (which, we were told, was top-grade US prime beef), tiramisu and coffee. The lower-priced set, at P950, comprised of leek and onion bisque, salad, roast Chilean sea bass, panna cotta and coffee.

Asked if we could have the *bistecca* sans the rest of the items in the set, the chef said certainly. For starters, we picked what we were earlier told was a must, hot artichoke dip (P195). We also had mushroom soup with truffle oil (P165), and a warm mushroom salad (P175).

There were only two entries under pasta: pancetta e piselli (P245) and *shrimp fra diavolo* (P295). We passed these up for a pizza instead, *prosciutto ed arugula* (P325), the dearest among a selection of four. Our second consisted of three of the five main entrees—sea scallops on saffron risotto with parsley oil (P545), *magret de canard* (P695), and lamb shank *osso buco* (P545), plus the 400-gram *bistecca a la florentina* (P1,500).

From QC via Italy

As we waited for the food, we learned that Hazel, born to pure Chinese parents and raised in Mindanao, had gone to the University of the Philippines and traded her investment banker's suit for chef's whites and clogs after spending four months in the Italian Culinary Institute for Foreigners in Costigliole d'Asti in the Piamonte region of northern Italy. Three more months of apprenticeship in restaurants in Italy and then she came home to Manila where, after a year, in January 2000, she married her boyfriend, businessman Chito Galvez.

Hazel was eight months pregnant with Massimo when they first put up a small authentic Italian restaurant in New Manila, A Tavolo. "Joel [Magsaysay] must have been referring to that part of my life when, fresh out of Italian culinary school, I was very idealistic in my cooking," Hazel said, laughing. Indeed, she seemed too pleasant and engaging to be possessed of the kind of temperament that Magsaysay spoke of.

A Tavolo generated some good reviews, but Hazel found it difficult to attend to while she was big with child. Admittedly, she was also a little frustrated over the inaccessibility of the ingredients that she wanted to use then. After eight months, they closed down the restaurant.

She gave birth to Massimo and, deciding it was not ideal to raise their child in "dirty, polluted Quezon City," the couple moved to Tagaytay in late 2001. A year and a half later, Chito succeeded in pushing Hazel back to the kitchen where she lords over a lean staff—"three including me and, on weekends, my husband, and two waiters."

Yummy

The first of the dishes we ordered was served. In the past, I've had soup, salad and starters, which had sent me off to some blissful realm, only to be doused with disappointment when the rest of the meal came. Thus, I was compelled to restrain myself while partaking of the truffle oil-laced mushroom soup, which I had with crisp bread smeared heavily with the hot artichoke dip. The salad was three kinds of lettuce and arugula mixed with oyster mushrooms that had been popped into the oven with melted mozarella, and a dressing of balsamic vinegar. Very good.

A non-compromising vegetarian in the group had a special set of dishes—chunky tomato soup and salad greens from the backyard with a tart dressing, crisp apple tart on an ethereal pastry shell. I had a taste of the filo-wrapped feta and spinach and a piece of chocolate bread, with bits of chocolate, spread with homemade blue cheese. I felt like purring from sheer pleasure. Still, I reminded myself, the real test was yet to come.

I had deliberately asked for the *magret de canard* because I find duck too gamy, and I wanted to see whether or not Hazel's rendition would do anything to my palate vis-à-vis duck meat.

The *bistecca* and the *magret de canard*, both done medium-rare, were brought to the table almost at the same time. Happily, the portions were not unattractively humongous. I had a slice of the *bistecca*—which had been slightly marinated in and drizzled with balsamic vinegar, and thus charred well—and it was all I could do to keep myself from humming as I am wont to do when the food is delicious. I next reached out for a slice of the *magret de canard* and, I swear, it was the best roast duck breast I had ever tasted! The duck, said the chef, had been specifically raised to make *foie gras*, and that for seasoning, she had used only salt, pepper and a little brandy for glazing.

I swooned over the *magret de canard*, which I had with the heavenly truffle oil-drizzled *porcini* and shiitake risotto in pure mushroom stock, which Hazel had topped with a teaspoonful of butter just before it was served. The latter is not in the menu but can be specially ordered.

The lamb shank was also tasty but, to be honest, not remarkable compared to the two other meat dishes alongside it. I also found the scallops with saffron-soaked risotto a little too rich. But overall, this did not diminish my enjoyment of one of the most exceptional meals I'd had in recent memory.

Sweet dreams

Our table sang a chorus of superlatives as the meal ended with a trio of genuinely pure homemade gelato, alongside the chef's seductive chocolate cake stuffed full of Belgian-imported Callebaut chocolate in the middle; cheese cake with Kahlua coffee liquer, espresso and a thin chocolate crust; and Galvez's panna cotta which virtually melted in the mouth.

We were bursting at the seams, but we had to accept the offer of piping hot coffee from an excellent blend of beans roasted especially for the Galvezes by Jamica, a small coffee company in Silang, Cavite run by *balikbayan* couple Totoy and Evelyn Asuncion.

As it turned out, the hot brew was necessary, or we would have fallen asleep at the wheel on the drive home.

To be sure, my dreams that night were of *porchetta* (baked whole roast pork) which the Galvezes enticed us with for our next visit. It certainly is huge comfort to know that one can have a next-to-genuine taste of Italy only 90 minutes away from Manila.

Massimo's Cafe is located at the entrance, Royal Pines Subdivision, before Mahogany Market, Tagaytay City. Call mobile phone 0916-371-5449 or tel. nos. (046)860-2247 and (046)413-0881 for reservations. Open 10:30 a.m. for lunch Tuesday till Sunday all through dinner with last order at 9 p.m. Tuesday till Thursday and Sunday; and 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Closed Mondays.

BOOK REVIEWS

The fem[illegible] of the boy

A celebration of the ephemeral loveliness of the male who's no longer a child but not yet a man

By Leovino Ma. Garcia
Contributor

The Boy
By Germaine Greer
London: Thames & Hudson, 2003, 256 p.

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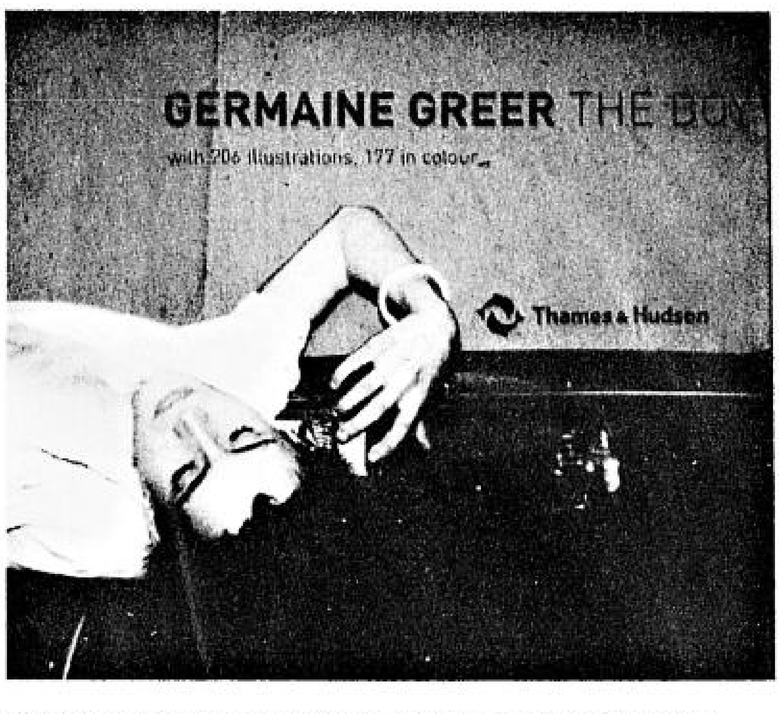

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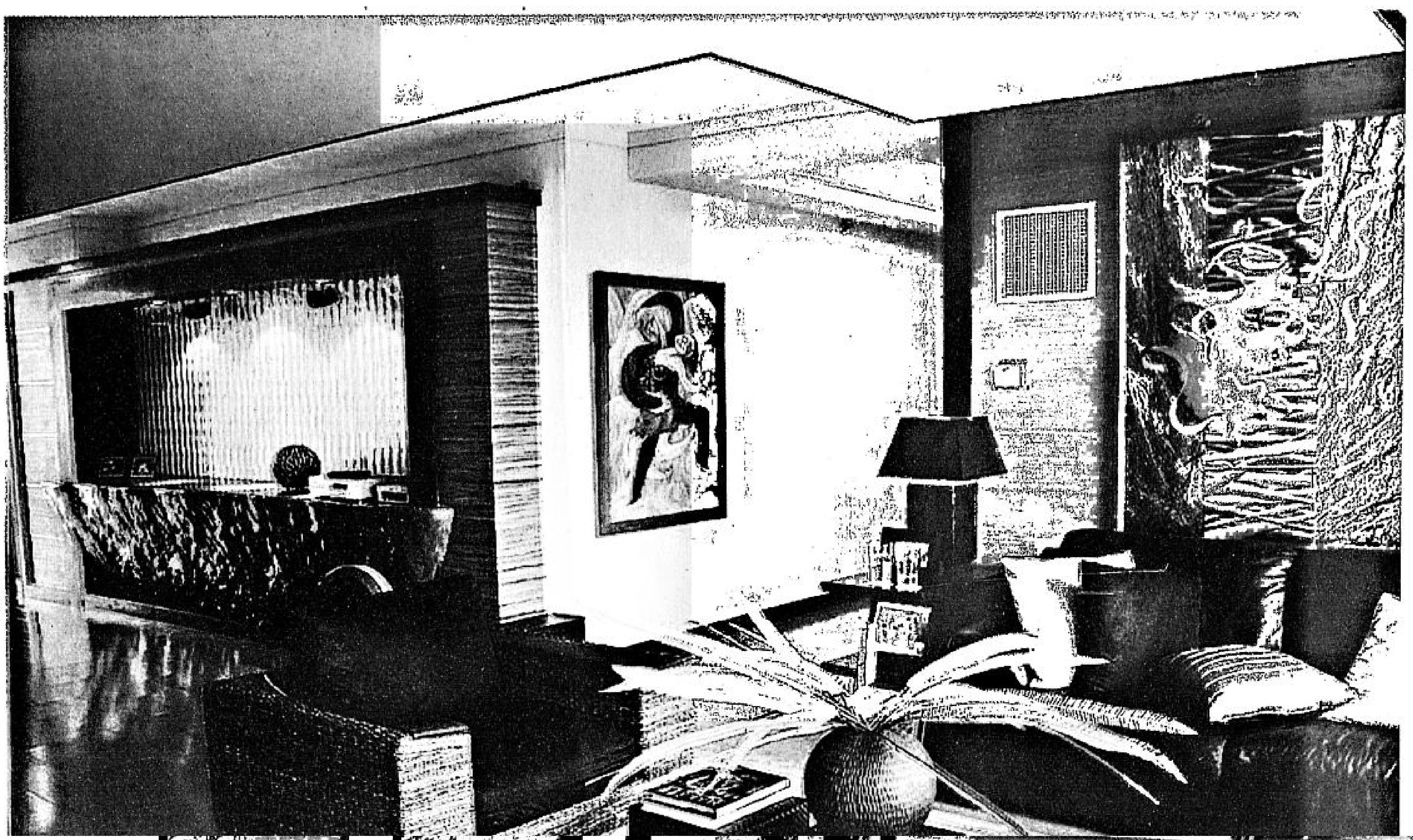
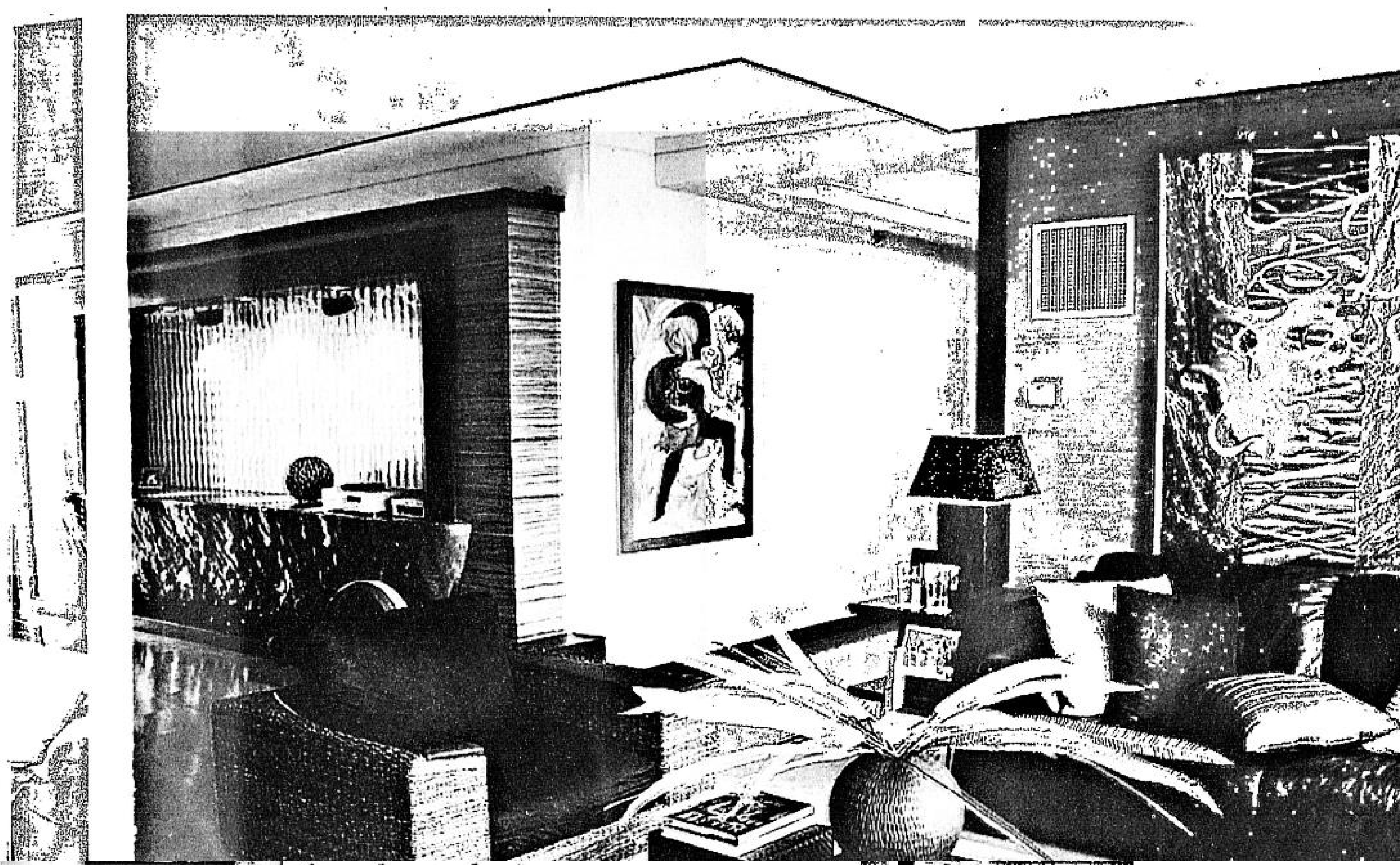
come and get it.
NESCAFÉ
Classic
one good day
coming up!

TURDAY, AUGUST 14, 2004 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER





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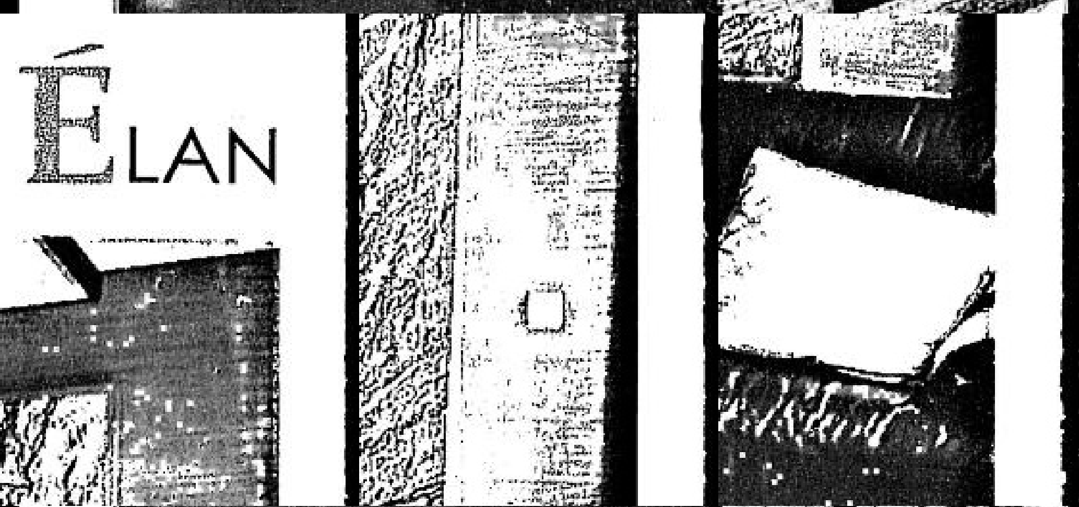

THE DINING area is under two floating ceilings. Zebrano wood veneer with stainless steel inlays dress up the walls. At night, the

fazed any designer

Photos by Chito Vecina
Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana

THE HOMEOWNER is a salsa champion. Since … on can't pay the bills, he works as an investment banker. Ha… d abroad for many years, he was accustomed to the compac… ents in New York, Tokyo and Hong Kong. In Makati, he fou… cious, three-bedroom, 300-square meter unit in a luxury co… m in Bonifacio Global City. The guest rooms are meant for … when they visit the Philippines.

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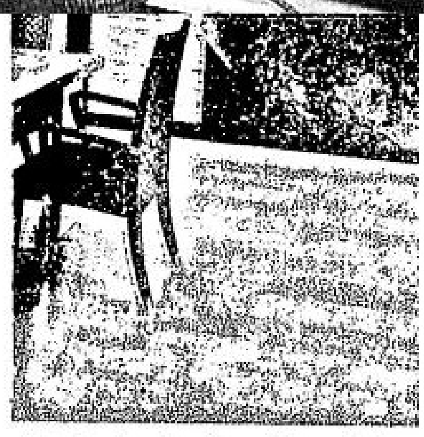

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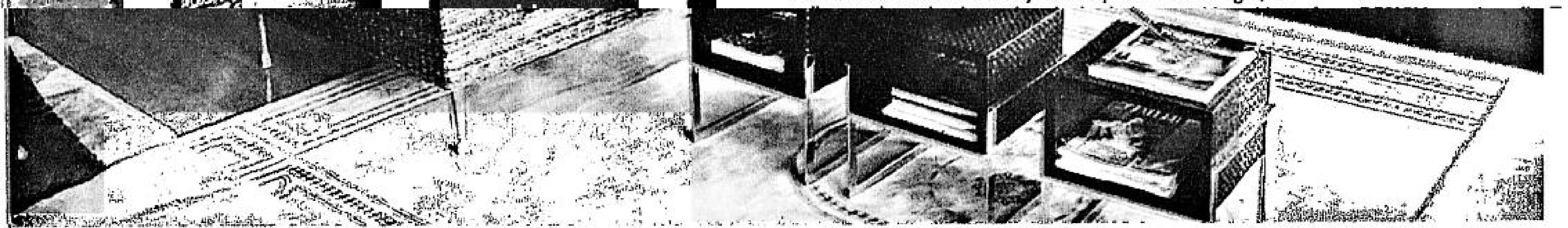

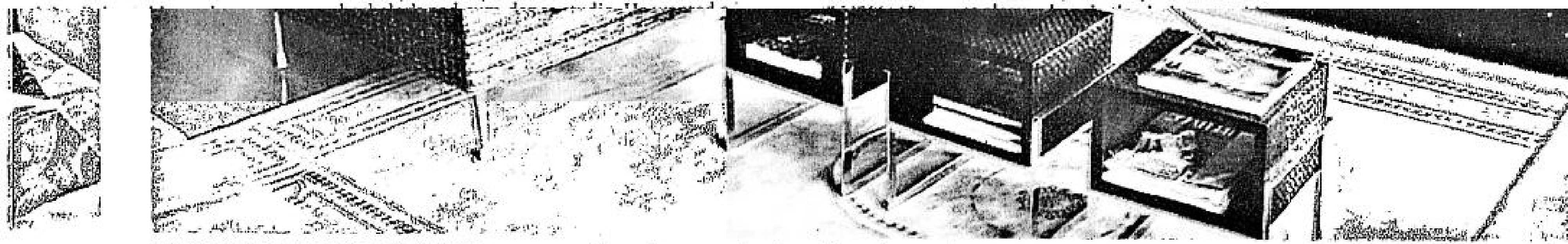

SPACIOUS living area becomes a dance floor at night. The seagrass wall covering, woven leather tables, ultra suedes and silks add visual and tactile stimuli.

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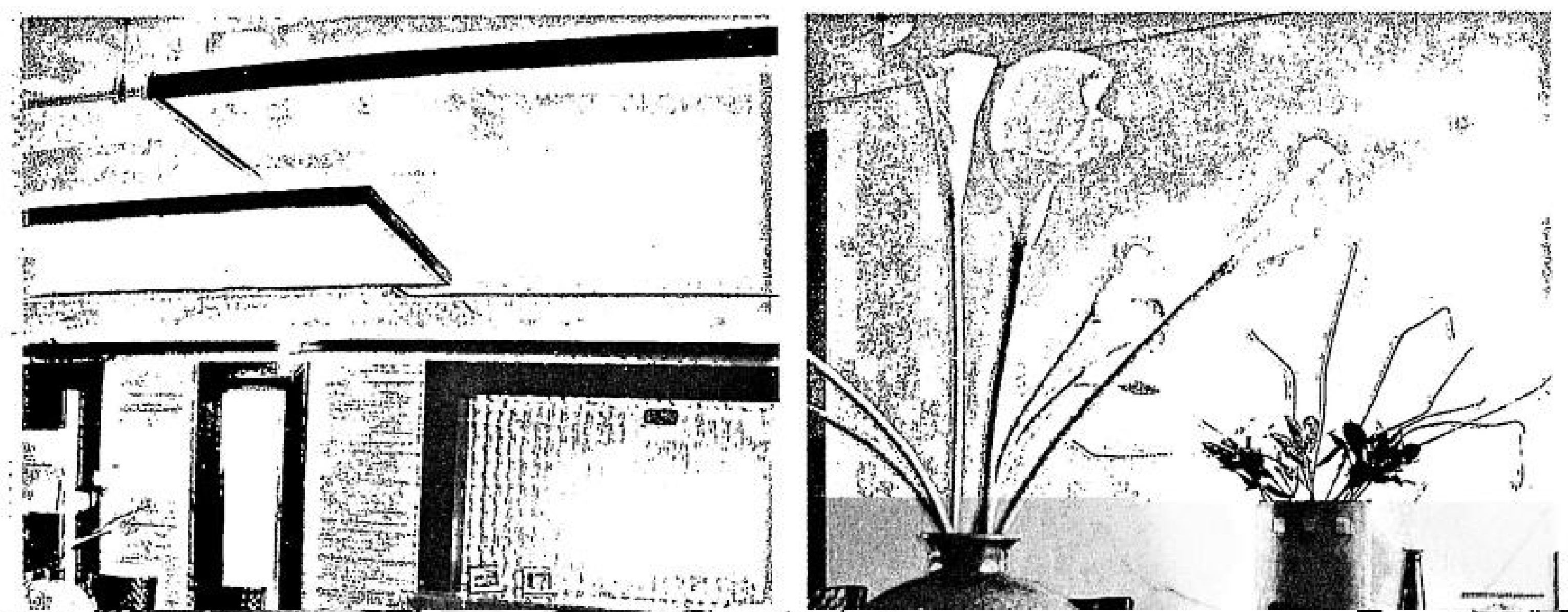
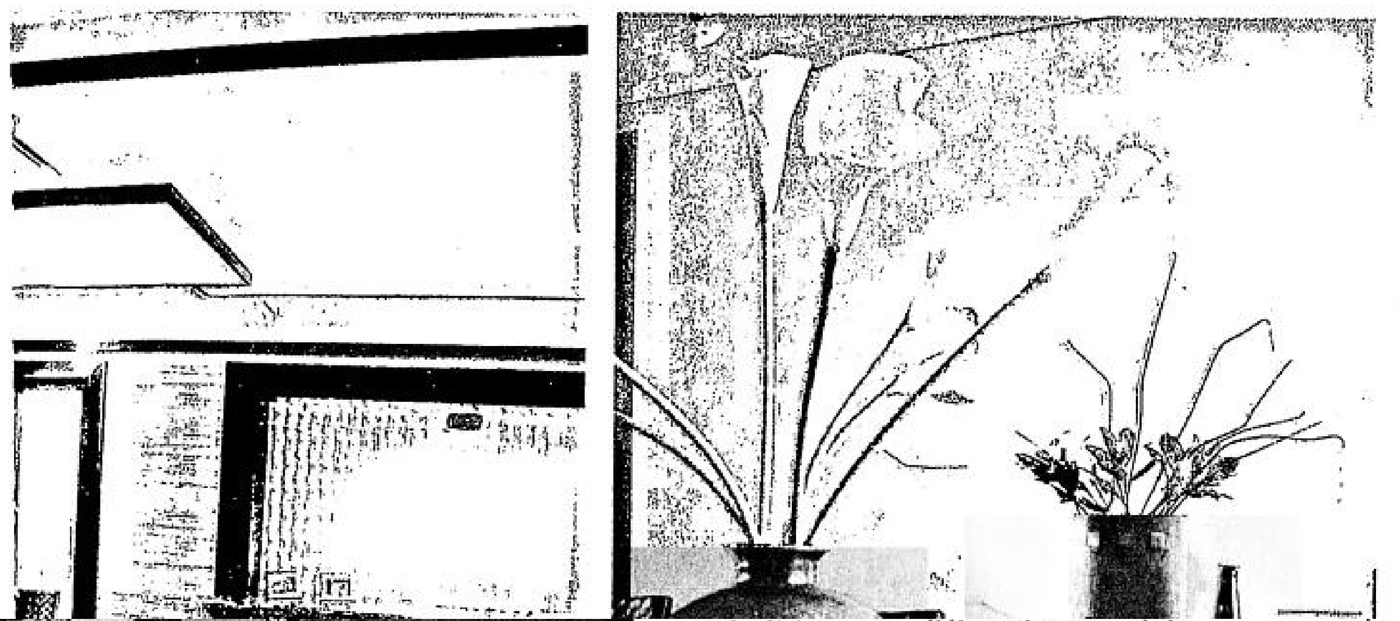


This pad is made for dancing

The owner is an investment banker and salsa champion, a combination that would have fazed any designer



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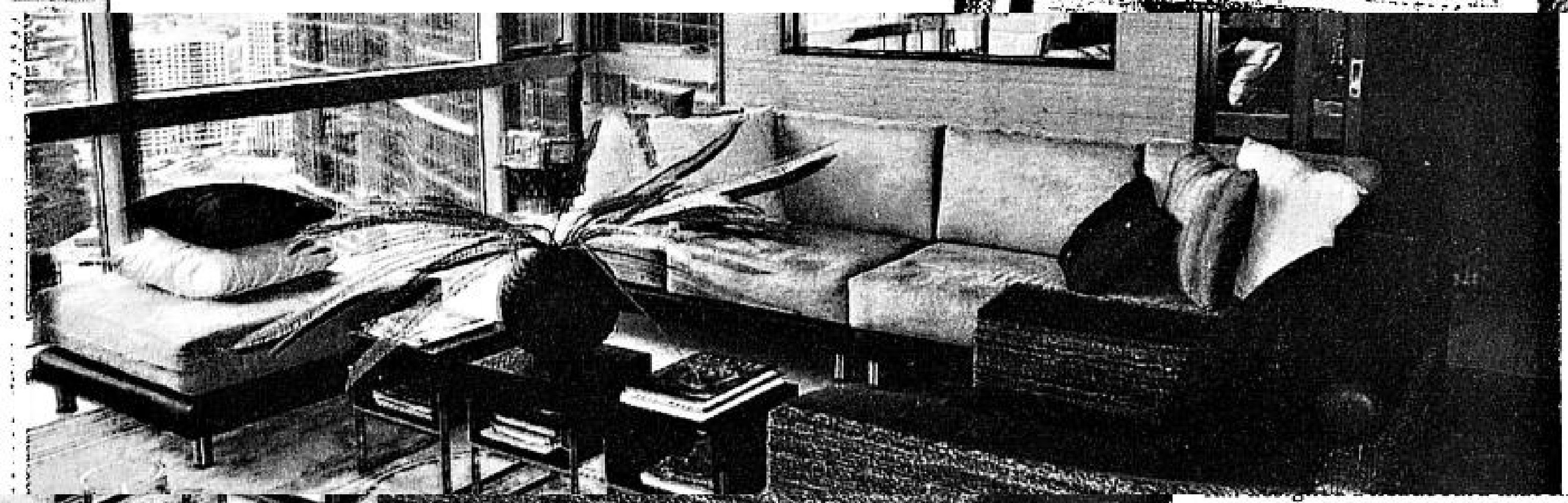

In the living room, sliding mirror panels h… make a studio. The engineered hardwood floo… to withstand salsa dancing. A console made … slab and lined with beach stones houses the s… stem and also gives the experience of a Zen garden. Talk ab… ging the o… side in. The massive black console contrast… he wallpap… which playfully glows in the dark for dance ni…

For the Filipino touch, seagrass wallpaper g… iving and dining rooms more texture. Local furniture a… leather and *abaca* with stainless steel frames. … ign … ing table, made from *tanguile* and inlaid wi… There are other pieces from the bachelor's apa… Hong … To contain the sound on karaoke nights, t… ainment are… has padded wallpaper. Color tones are metal… and copper. Big hits are a sofa bed and giant throw pillows … nd.

The client wanted his bedroom to be mini… Tan designed a headboard that extended to th… canopy, with copper and *kamagong* details. T… by the side tables, made of acacia and *ipil*, by …

Accustomed to the servant-less lifestyle in … the bachelor keeps everything neat by hiring … for regular cleaning and for parties. Between … doesn't mind just enjoying his new place, wh… heart's content.

A PHOTO floats in a mirrored niche in the living area. Overscaled sofa and expansive windows impart a feeling of space.

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…g … stment … mpion, … ould have

…nce his passion can't pay … Having lived abroad for … pact apartments in New … found a spacious, three- … condominium in Bonifa- … for his family when they

…ant Jim Tan to set up his

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wallpaper above the alcove glows in the dark to provide ambience for the salsa.

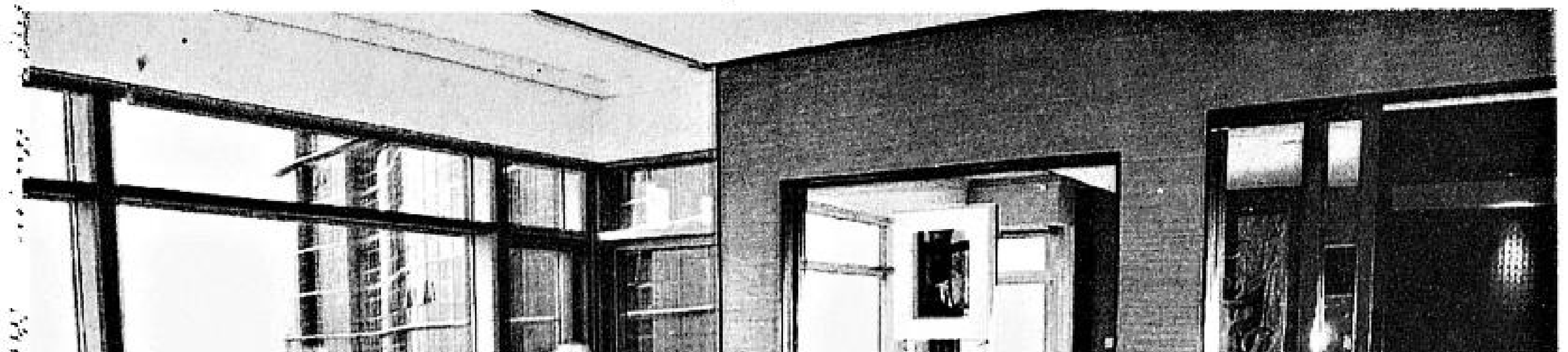
DESIGN consultant Jim Tan created the dining table made of Philippine mahogany, *narra* and *kamagong* inlay.

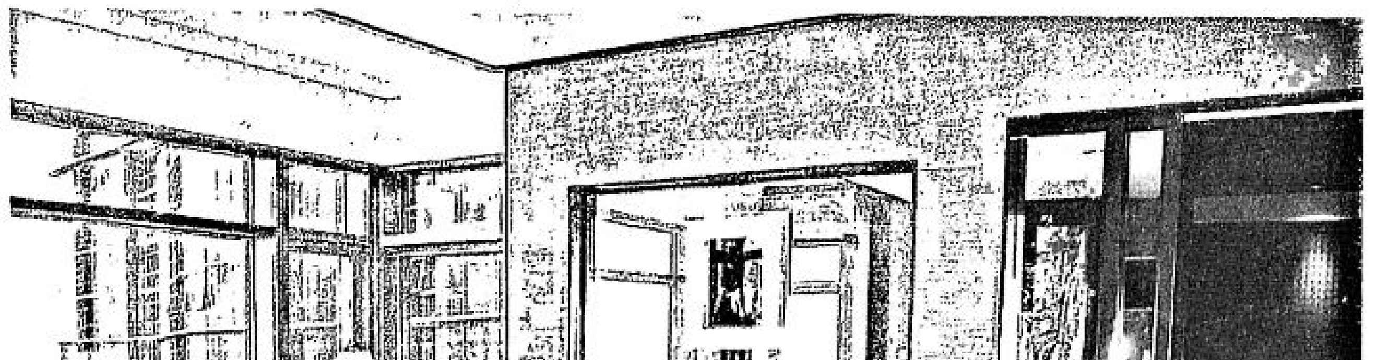
bachelor's pad-cum-dance studio. He wanted a look that was modern but with Filipino touches (he researched Filipino design books and magazines for inspiration). Yet, he also wanted a subtle, sexy feel.

Tan describes the interiors as "cosmopolitan living," reflecting the lifestyle of his client. "It's a no-frills look. It's not formal, nor too casual. The color palette is neutral but not bland, and accentuated with art pieces. We manipulated textures in the fabric and wall paper."

The unit originally had a concrete ceiling which limited the lighting facility. Tan installed a drop ceiling and an extra slab ceiling to accommodate halogens, track lighting and pin lights for a better mood. A second ceiling over the dining area creates a floating effect.

First-time visitors can't help but comment that the place is very masculine, especially as reflected in the brown and black tones and the voluminous but streamlined furniture. Overall, it is a solid backdrop for the owner's growing collection of artworks.





le alcove glows in the dark to provide ambience for

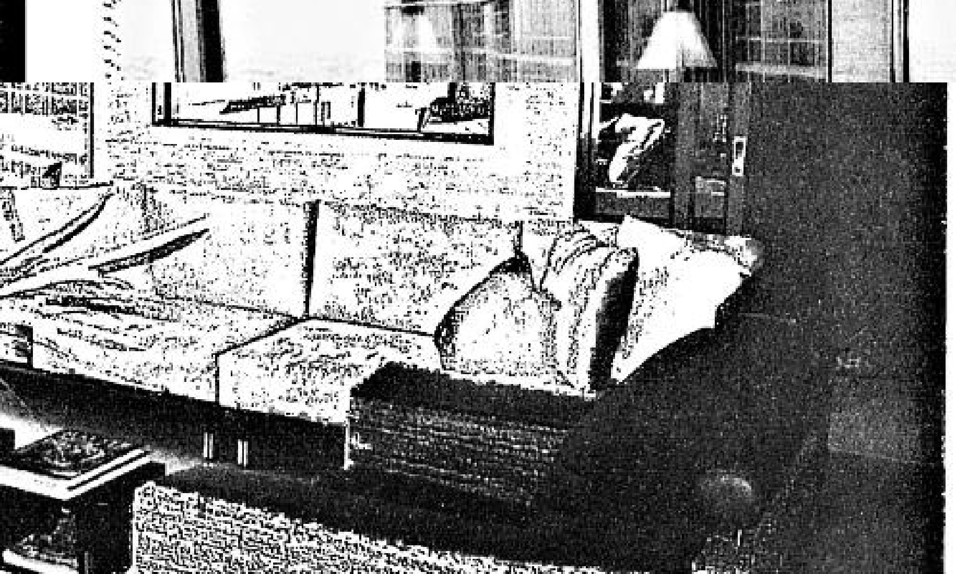
DESIGN consultant Jim Tan created the dining table made of Philippine mahogany, narra and kamagong inlay.

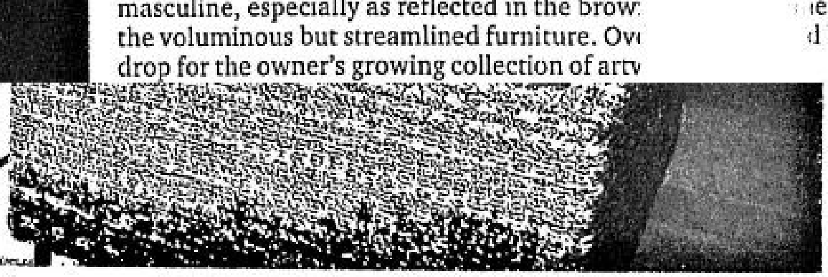
bachelor's pad-cum-dance studio. He wanted … but with Filipino touches (he researched Fi… magazines for inspiration). Yet, he also wante…

Tan describes the interiors as "cosmopolit… lifestyle of his client. "It's a no-frills look. It'… sual. The color palette is neutral but not … with art pieces. We manipulated textures in … per."

The unit originally had a concrete ceiling … ing facility. Tan installed a drop ceiling and … accommodate halogens, track lighting and … mood. A second ceiling over the dining are… fect.

First-time visitors can't help but commen… masculine, especially as reflected in the bro… the voluminous but streamlined furniture. O…





In the living room, sliding mirror panels have been extended to make a studio. The engineered hardwood flooring is sturdy enough to withstand salsa dancing. A console made from a huge concrete slab and lined with beach stones houses the sound system and also gives the experience of a Zen garden. Talk about bringing the outside in. The massive black console contrasts with the wallpaper, which playfully glows in the dark for dance nights.

For the Filipino touch, seagrass wallpaper gives the living and dining rooms more texture. Local furniture are made from woven leather and *abaca* with stainless steel frames. Tan designed the dining table, made from *tanguile* and inlaid with Filipino mahogany. There are other pieces from the bachelor's apartment in Hong Kong.

To contain the sound on karaoke nights, the entertainment area has padded wallpaper. Color tones are metallic bronze and copper. Big hits are a sofa bed and giant throw pillows for lazing around.

The client wanted his bedroom to be minimalist but not boring. Tan designed a headboard that extended to the ceiling like a padded canopy, with copper and *kamagong* details. The look is made richer by the side tables, made of acacia and *ipil*, by Benji Reyes.

Accustomed to the servant-less lifestyle in First World countries, the bachelor keeps everything neat by hiring only a part-time maid for regular cleaning and for parties. Between jobs at the moment, he doesn't mind just enjoying his new place, where he can dance to his heart's content.

Marge C. Enriquez

…erscaled sofa and expansive windows impart a feeling of space.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Today's trend, tomorrow's torment !

Is looking your best, the best thing for you?

By Dr. Martin Camara
Contributor

WHO says back pain is a strictly masculine phenomenon? Women are just as likely to suffer from it. But instead of weight lifting and construction work, it is vanity that injures women.

Which brings us to the question: Is looking your best, the best thing for you? It may very well work wonders for your self-esteem, but women around the world are now re-learning the wisdom of sacrificing stylishness for comfort and ease of movement.

Aiming to please, clothing designers and stylists create unique looks that are not necessarily practical for the wearer. A case in point are the three- to four-inch stilettos popularized by Sarah Jessica Parker in "Sex in the City." Women around the world traded the flat shoe ("forget me flats") for the sexy, feminine, cool look of the pointy high heels.

Footwear such as these can cause serious discomfort and exacerbate back pain. High heels alter the natural balanced position of a person's body. When a woman wears them, a new dynamic equilibrium is created. Dr. Jerome McAndrews, national spokesman of the American Chiropractic Association, compared the musculo-skeletal system to a mobile, hanging in dynamic equilibrium, each part balancing the other. If one part becomes "fixed," the whole system will compensate with a movement or restriction. Essentially, wearing high heels for any length of time increases the forward curve of the back and causes the pelvis to tip forward. This deviates from the normal configuration of the pelvis and spine that is necessary for the body to maintain a center of gravity.

Since the legs are the foundation of the muscular and skeletal system, any alteration of this delicate balance can trigger a whole array of symptoms—pains in the feet, knees, hips, lower back, shoulders, and neck, even headaches. By bringing the heels up, you encourage the shortness of the muscles that run behind the legs. Combine that with sitting behind a desk for prolonged periods of time and you have the ingredients for a world-class back injury!

Women also tend to wear clothes that are too tight. As a man, I find this incredibly attractive. Professionally, however, I would have to say that such a practice is restrictive in many ways. Clothes that are too tight throw a person off-balance. Simple everyday tasks such as bending, sitting and walking becomes difficult—in some cases, even breathing! This may, and often does, result in poor posture and misalignment of the spine, leading once again to a whole array of symptoms.

Last but not least, let's talk about the handbag. Gone are the days of the teeny-weeny purse to hold lipstick, keys and blush-on. Nowadays women need a bag big enough to fit one or two books, a cell phone with a camera and address book, an extra meal for the special diet, workout clothes, a pair of flat shoes, office papers, and other "necessities." A giant handbag is no longer just a fashionable item; it's a portable lifestyle. No wonder they are so popular! They have even developed a name for it: the tote bag (more like a pillowcase if you ask me).

So once again, are women setting themselves up for a life of pain? As we have written before, these small and seemingly insignificant micro traumas will add up and cause major problems over time. Unfortunately, no amount of information is going to divert women from wanting to look fashionable... and I wouldn't want them to, because they look wonderful ! Looking and feeling good is an integral part of wellness. Maybe the question should then be: How can women avert pain, given their desire to be desirable?

1) **Choose comfortable supportive shoes for days when you will be walking or staying on your feet for prolonged periods.** Remember that if the shoes are difficult to stand in, it will likewise be difficult to walk in.

2) **Use high heels and stilettos sparingly.** When you simply must, spend some time at the start and end of the day stretching the muscles of your legs and back. The calf, hamstring and lower back require special attention. For the pelvis, lie on your back and bring both knees towards the chest, tuck in your chin and gently rock back and forth.

3) **While sitting, whether or not you are wearing heels, take frequent stretch breaks.** This will alleviate weakening of the leg muscles and distribute the pressure to different areas of the spine.

4) **Avoid excessively tight clothing.** If you really prefer them, choose styles that allow you to perform daily tasks with ease.

5) **Do clothes directly affect your movements in daily tasks?** Wear only those that fit your lifestyle.

6) **Try not to carry more than 10 percent of your body weight in your bag.** If you use a shoulder strap, transfer the bag from one shoulder to another every so often.

7) **Take the time to remove unnecessary items from your bag.** You would be amazed at how much of these "stuff" we carry around all day.

8) **Use the front pockets of your bag.** These are where the things most often used—such as your wallet and cellular phone—should be kept, to avoid a pulled neck.

Email the author at drmartin@intercare-centers.com.

HIGH-HEELS and platforms can injure your ankles and back and cause imbalance.

Back where he belongs ... at the top

Breaking free of self-imposed confines, Angelo Justin runs his own shop again

ANGELO Scissorhands

CELEBRITY hairdresser Angelo Justin's career has come full circle.

In 1981, at age 23, he set up a shop in Manila under his own name. Today, at 46—after several stints with other salons—he runs his own shop again at the Goldcrest Building in Ayala Center.

Justin's Italian father, master cutter Antonio Justiniani, met Salvacion Javier, a Spanish *mestiza* taking up dressmaking at the Kollerman School of Fashion in Quiapo, Manila. They got married and had nine children. Angelo, the youngest, studied beauty culture—grooming, makeup and hair styling—at 14.

When he established his practice, the petal hairdo became one of his trademark styles (he looped and piled strands of hair to resemble floral petals). And because people often misspelled or mispronounced his surname, Angelo shortened it to Justin.

During the popularity of noontime fashion shows and the surge of Japayukis, Angelo changed his surname to Gorospe. This didn't work. He also tried his luck in Saudi Arabia as a barber. After four years, he came home to reestablish his shop in Pasay City.

A turning point came when he joined the Rodger Craig salon at the Peninsula Manila. His mentor, British hairdresser Geoff Simpson, introduced many innovative services and products in the country and professionalized the wages of hairdressers so that they could afford homes and cars. The salon specialized in short hair and introduced highlights. Angelo learned not only more advanced techniques from Simpson; he also learned the art of image and marketing.

"He was my best friend. He built me up," recalls Angelo. He was sent to Hong Kong and London to learn more makeup and hairdressing techniques. By then he had won awards in makeup and in haircutting for both men and women.

He recalled that when the Miss Universe competition was held in Manila in 1994, he was one of the lucky 30 hair-and-makeup artists chosen by James Cooper and Jun Encarnacion to attend to the contestants. One of those assigned to him was Sushmita Sen of India. Angelo instinctively knew she was going to bag the title, if only because of her pluck. On the big day, he made her a petal hairdo that would later hold the coveted crown.

When Simpson saw Sen's photographs, he was sure Angelo's touch had something to do with her victory, and said so. The salon sent press releases announcing that their hairdresser created the hairstyle that helped Sen clinch the title. Eventually, Simpson encouraged Angelo to do beauty editorials for the glossy magazines. Over time, Angelo thus developed a relationship with the press and his own socialite clientele.

Angelo left Rodger Craig salon when it was at its peak. He was pirated by the Franck Provost salon. He became part of the Style Society, a prestigious group of international hairdressers, and has been featured in their magazines and books.

Working with the French salon was good for him because it imparted uncompromising standards in grooming and image for the staffers. After six years, Angelo felt it was time to go on his own again. If he wanted to avoid creative stagnation, he had to set higher aspirations and follow his intuition. Crispin Britannico, hairdresser and businessman, gave him a tempting offer—to be a business partner and manage a salon under his (Angelo's) name. The main attraction is Angelo's expertise and decades of experience behind him, at competitive rates. He specializes in asymmetric cuts, layering, subtle highlights and dramatic bridal makeup. More than a business enterprise, the salon became, for Angelo, a move to expand the narrow confines that once bound him.

Angelo Justin's salon is at Goldcrest Building, Ayala Center. Call 814-0995 and 814-0672 for appointments. Visit website angelo-justin.com

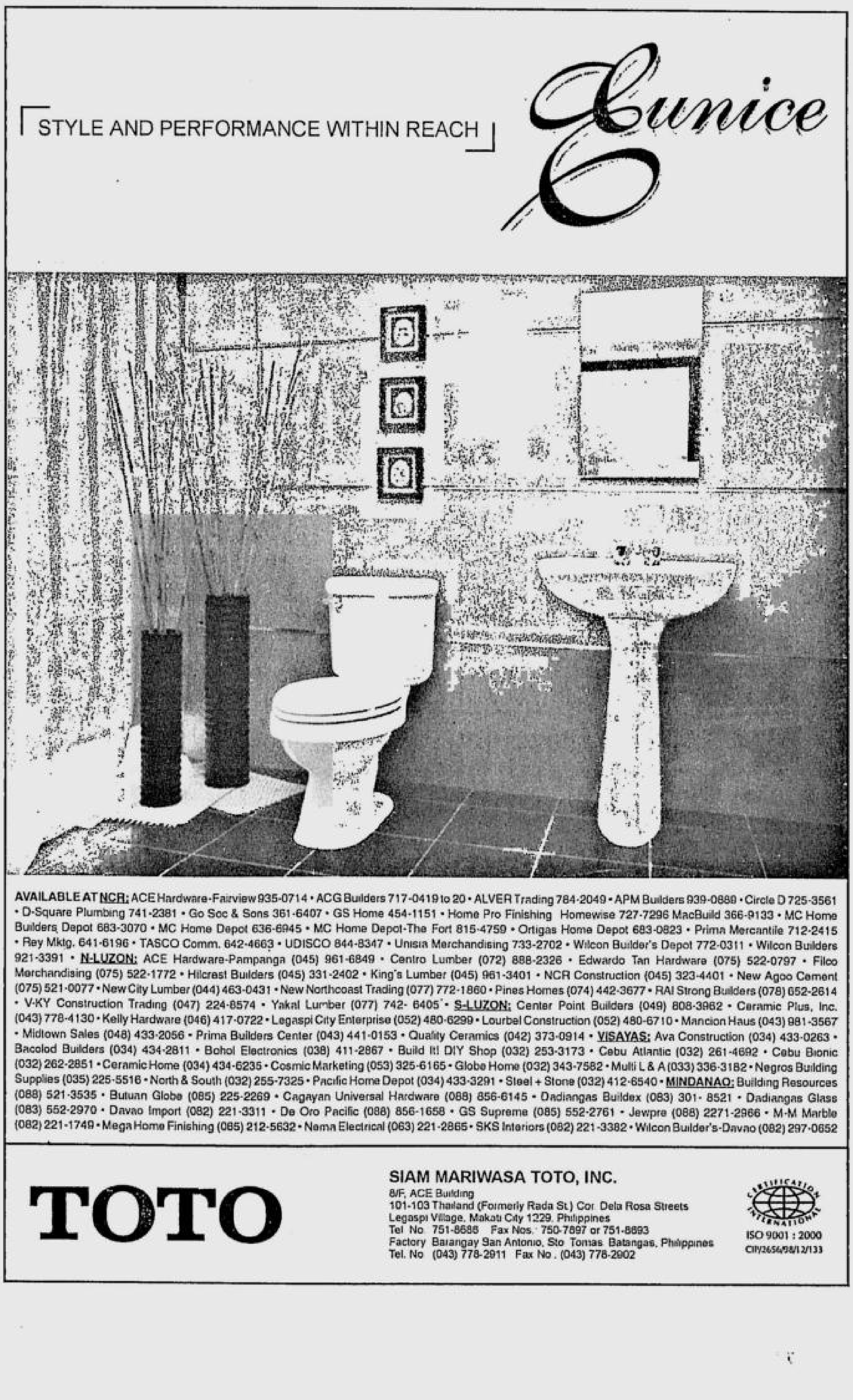
Walk With Me in 'Faith'

A PICTURE of hope taken by a cancer survivor.

A COLLECTION of photographs of flowers and foliage by cancer survivors and caregivers opens at Mondayat InterContinental Manila's lobby Art Café. Titled "Faith," the exhibit is mounted by the hotel and The Walk with Me Cancer Support Group, with Alberto Avellana as curator. It is in memory of the late Philippine King of Fashion, Jose B. Salazar, who succumbed to cancer at the apex of his career. The exhibit will run until August 29. Proceeds will be used to help needy cancer patients with their medical needs.

Walk with Me was born in January 2004, when some civic-minded women thought of forming a group that would help cancer survivors and their caregivers. Salazar, their common friend who was courageously fighting the dreaded disease at the time, was their inspiration. They met with him to discuss goals and plans. Unfortunately, he passed away last Feb. 14 a day before the support group's formal launch.

They chose the name Walk with Me Cancer Support Group to let cancer survivors and caregivers know that they are ready to lend a helping hand—physically, spiritually and emotionally.



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it's another 3-DAY SALE event happening at SM CITY NORTH EDSA this August 13, 14 and 15, 2004.

The shopping never ends here at SM CITY NORTH EDSA where you'll find big discounts of up to 50% or more in every corner! Enjoy super shopping from fashion, shoes, home furnishings, gadgets, novelty items and other special treats on great selections mallwide! Joining this year are new tenants in our Main Building : **Big & Small Co., Ibay's Silverworks, Fix Bench Salon,** Annex Building : **2B, Having a Baby,** at the Cyberzone: **Beard Papa,** and the newest rendevouz at The Garden : **Figaro.**

3-DAY SALE starts on August 13 from 10am til 10pm.

midnight bazaar

Non-stop shopping now extends til 12 midnight at our Midnight Bazaar happening at the Open Parking B (front of Main Building, beside " The Garden") Watch out for popular acoustic performances as you shop for great discounts at : Dec's Chinese Deli, Frost Jam, Cindy Carol, Kettle Korn, Shakey's, Freeway, Fruits and Waffles, Yellow Cab, Enfant, Acclaim Butterfly, Broadway Gems, Sari-Sari, Mr. Popper, Buffalo, Dunkin Donuts, Kenny Rogers, Maldita, Anonymous, Pacific Internet, YKL Fuji, Cardam's, Balut Eggspress, Salazar Bakery, Save on Surplus, American Boulevard, Greenwich and more!

Midnight Bazaar starts on August 13 to 14 from 6:00pm til 12 midnight!

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At night, The GARDEN is bursting with lights and colors perfect for strolling, or enjoy having coffee with friends at *Figaro.*

3 - day sale raffle draw

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Also, get one (1) raffle coupon for every P150 single or accumulated purchase from *SM Foodcourt*, one (1) raffle coupon for every four single purchase from *SM Cinema* and one (1) raffle coupon for every P100 single purchase of tokens / tickets from Amusement Centers.

Raffle Draw is on August 13, 14 and 15, 10:00pm at the Entertainment Plaza of SM CITY NORTH EDSA (near the SM Foodcourt) under the supervision of a DTI representative.

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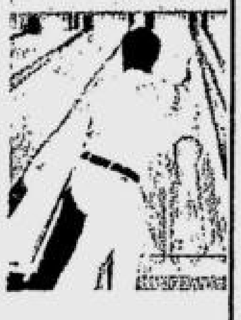

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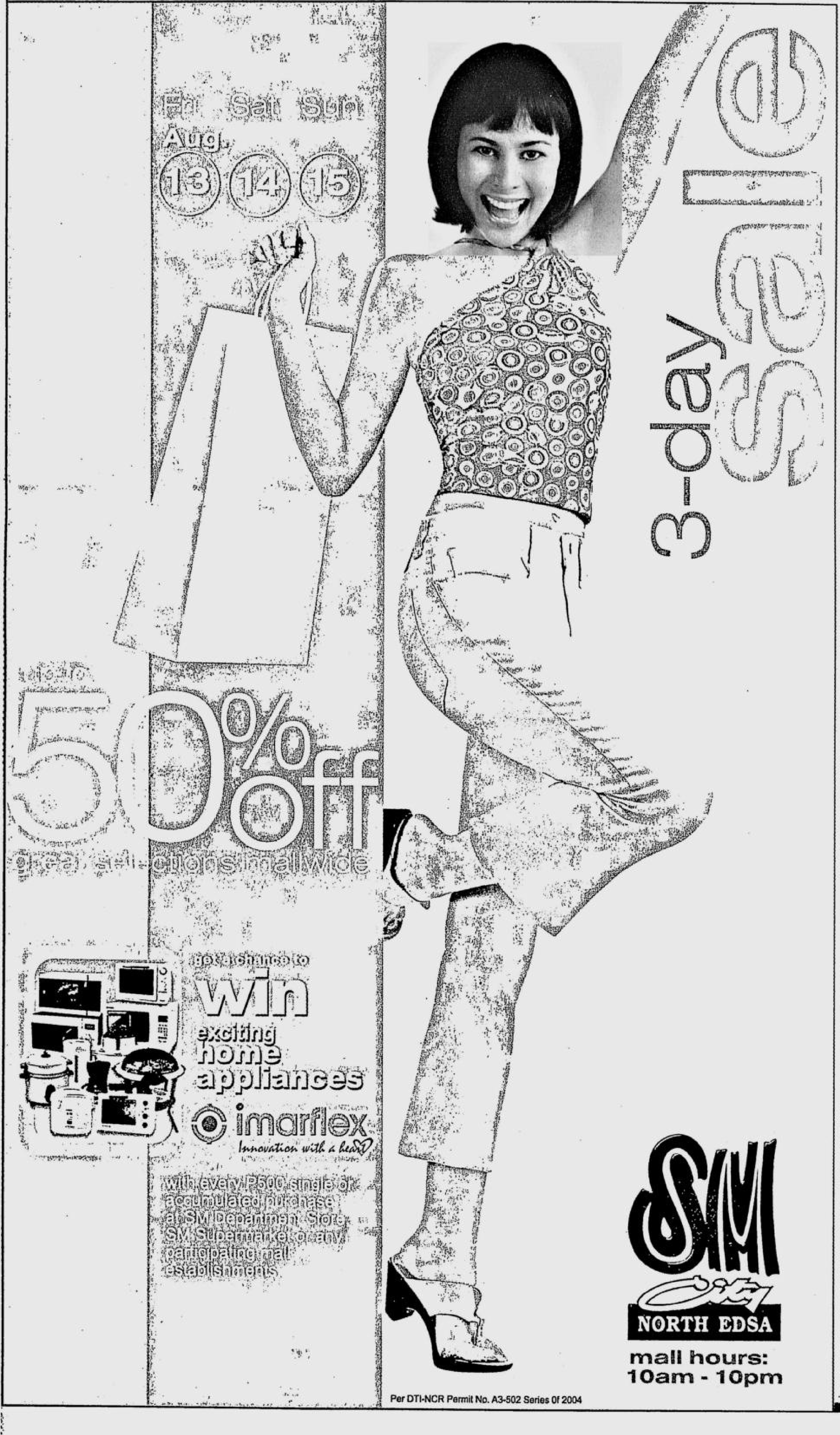

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Hitmakers back from triumphant US tour

By Nestor U. Torre

(Conclusion)

PRODUCER and road manager Norma Japitana agrees with "Hitmakers" show stars Rico J. Puno, Hajji Alejandro and Marco Sison that their recent concert tour of the United States was a great success because of the show's unique combination of the veteran singers' distinct performance styles.

Rico J. delighted Fil-Am audience with his powerful voice and naughty jokes, Hajji regaled listeners with his vintage but still popular hits, Marco scored with his romantic ballads and good looks, Nonoy Zuñiga hit it big with his dramatic renditions of well-loved songs, and even composer Rey Valera turned out to be quite a revelation as a comedian with his breezy spiels!

Norma J. takes us through the concert series' highlights to illustrate its high entertainment appeal and affecting nostalgia quotient:

Medley

"The show starts with a medley of OPM hits. The stars, now known in the US as the GH5, come out wearing differently-colored jackets, and engage in lighthearted wordplay—each at the expense of the other.

"It's their readiness to poke fun at themselves that makes the audience realize that it's in for an evening of fun and banter, with each performer doing his spontaneous best to entertain homesick Fil-Ams with delightful Filipino songs and jokes.

VETERAN SINGING STARS. (Clockwise, from left) Marco Sison, Rico J. Puno, Hajji Alejandro, Rey Valera and Nonoy Zuñiga.

Romantic songs

"Marco Sison leads off the individual performing segments with his chart-stopping romantic songs, like "My Love Will See You Through." After three songs that leave the women in the audience tingling with romantic feelings, Nonoy follows up with his famous 'Never Ever Say Goodbye' and other impressive numbers.

"Rey Valera, better known as the gifted composer of hits like 'Pangako Sa'Yo' and 'Maging Sino Ka Man,' gives a moving performance of his original and still unrecorded 'Sa Aking Panahon.'

"The song impacts strongly on the Fil-Am audience because it's about the Philippines' current woes, like corruption and poverty.

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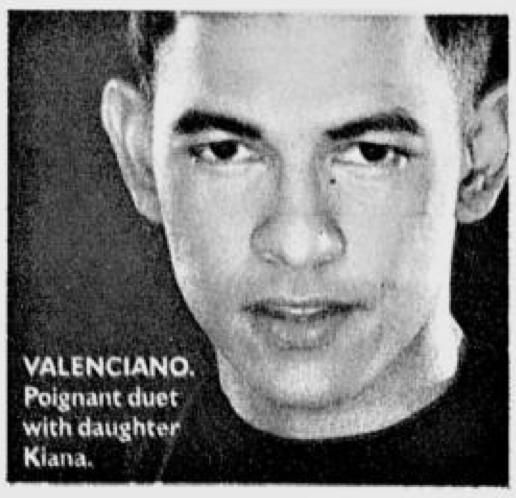
Gary V counts his blessings


VALENCIANO. Poignant duet with daughter Kiana.

By Jocelyn Valle

ON his 40th birthday last Aug. 6, Gary Valenciano counted his blessings and shared them with fans who filled the Araneta Coliseum.

He thanked God, his family, friends and fans through songs and dances close to his heart.

. Gary had spot numbers with his kids Paolo, Gabriel and Kiana.. Paolo sang a praise and worship song with Gary.

Gabriel owned the stage during the "Hataw Na" number where he, Gary, Mon Faustino and Tek Faustino played a K-hon each.

Kiana, who's said to have inherited the singing talent of Gary and his wife Angeli, who used to perform with Music and Magic, did a poignant duet with Gary on "You'll Be In My Heart," the theme of Disney's "Tarzan."

Angeli doesn't perform in public anymore, so Gary dedicated "Sana Maulit Muli" to her, as photographs were shown on the giant screen behind him.

Gratitude

Gary also showed his gratitude to friends like Aga Muhlach and ZsaZsa Padilla by singing "Friends Are Friends Forever" with an accompanying collage of their snapshots together.

Newfound friend Piolo Pascual did his version of "Kailangan Kita," with Gary's own take of Ogie Alcasid's composition.

Youths from different church-based groups joined Gary in an energetic number. "Dancing with these kids gives me the best workout," he laughed.

Mr. Pure Energy also thanked his parents in separate tributes. He sang "Un Historia de Amor" with his Puerto Rican mother in a video presentation.

Ballad

"I've never written a song for my father," confessed the singer. "Tonight, I'm proud to give this to him." Then, he sang a ballad that articulated his appreciation for Vic Valenciano, a photographer whose latest work is a book of Gary's pictures, from birth to the present.

Gary reserved the last part of his concert to the Giver of all he's got, singing a medley of inspirational hits.

Hitmakers

From page D1

It ends with the hope that our leaders can put God instead of money first in their hearts. The audience expresses its strong agreement with tumultuous applause—and, invariably, a standing ovation.

"Hajji lightens the mood in his inimitable fashion as he sings and dances his repertoire of popular '60s dance music.

Theme songs

"Rico J. is the last to perform,. and regales the audience with his OPM hits, contemporary US tunes, famous Tagalog soap opera theme songs, and his "signature" green jokes, which leave the audience howling with laughter.

Looking back on their SRO shows in big venues in San Francisco, Los Angels, Las Vegas, Florida, Atlantic City and Chicago, Norma J. says that the concert series' five singing stars were so well-received that repeats in the US are already being worked out.

Fil-Am entertainment writers second the motion. One of them writes, "'The Great Hitmakers' is the best Filipino act ever to hit the US. Imagine Filipino hits being served with the latest news (gossip) on the local scene, and the 'passionate' performances of the GH5! The show left no doubt in our mind that they deserve all the accolades they've been getting."

---

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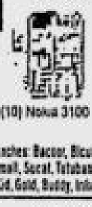
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'SANTA-SANTITA'

Laurice Guillen shoots modern Magdalene story

By Nestor U. Torre

GUILLEN. Her new film is "a good reminder that Christ came for sinners."

SOME five years ago, our screenwriting workshopper Jerry Gracio was stumped for a story idea for a film script, so we gave him one of our own concepts, about a sinful girl who is "pursued" by God and pressured by Him to repent and live a holy life.

We got this concept from a poem, "The Hound of Heaven," we had read many years ago, about God pursuing the sinful poet through the subterranean underworld, until the sinner heeded God's call.

From this initial input, we extrapolated a story about a sinful girl who was suddenly confronted with the evil in her life when she inexplicably experienced stigmata.

Holy conundrum

This was a holy conundrum for everyone, because stigmata are usually given to the holy, like Francis of Assisi and Padre Pio. But, we also reminded ourselves that Jesus became man, not for holy people, but for sinners.

So, we felt that an unusual story like this would be a strong reminder of God's love for all of us, including the "unlovable."

Little did we know that, after we gave the basic concept to Jerry, it would take on a life of its own. Jerry was artistically and thematically inspired by the possibilities of the material, and came up with an outstanding screenplay.

Ace director Laurice Guillen was one of the judges of the screenwriting competition where the script was entered. She liked Jerry's work so much that she bought the rights to the script—the first time in her illustrious directorial career that she had done that.

First prize

The script, which Jerry had titled "Santa-Santita," won first prize, so Laurice's faith in it was justified.

Still, it took five long years before "Santa-Santita" reached the shooting stage. When we heard that Laurice was finally shooting it for Tony Gloria's Unitel outfit (for which she had previously megged "American Adobo"), we asked if we could drop by one of its locations to see how the production was coming along.

Wednesday last week, despite the rains, we visited the movie's shoot in front of Quiapo church. Laurice was in high spirits and, while she was waiting for a special camera attachment to arrive, she agreed to answer a few questions about her new film-in-the-making.

We led off by asking the esteemed director why, of all the scripts that have been forwarded to her for her perusal, she had decided to shoot Gracio's prizewinning screenplay.

"I was especially motivated by its being a Magdalene story—about a bad girl who gets called," Laurice shared. "It's a good reminder that Christ came for sinners, and that it's God who calls.

"We usually think that saints are those who are *pa*-holy-holy. But, I was attracted to the story's unusual twist. So, I bought the material, and first brought it to Star Cinema.

Title role

"The studio was very interested in the script, but we couldn't decide on the actress who would play the script's challenging title role.

"Since she was a Magdalene, she had to be sexy—but, she also had to be much more than that.

"I was shown many sexy actresses, some of them name stars, but I couldn't find my Santa-Santita. I felt that the role should go to someone relatively new, who had no fixed image, so that there would be no expectations.

"But, we couldn't agree on who that actress would be, so we couldn't get to the shooting stage.

"There were also disagreements over the right approach to the material. Well, there's always resistance to doing a religious film—yes, even after the success of 'Tanging Yaman.'

Resistance

"In this case, there was even more resistance because, in the original script, the young woman receives the stigmata. I wanted to approach that head-on (unlike in similar movies, where it just became a circumstance).

"I decided she really had a conversion. But, in the Catholic Church, there are criteria for authentic miracles. So, to clarify that, I wanted to add a church connection, in the person of a priest—who, ironically, had problems of his own.

"The tie-up that began to emerge as I kept thinking about the script, reacting to it and adjusting it, was that the troubled priest's experience with her would change *him!*" ***(To be concluded)***

Lessons in humility

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

THE ESSENCE of the spiritual kingdom is that condition where a person feels unqualified. With materialistic conditioning, we are trained to think highly of ourselves. From a young age, we build up credentials, titles, degrees, etc., and flaunt them as achievements. We are told that, the higher we are above others, the better we are as persons, and the happier we will be.

Opposite

In reality, the opposite is true. We ask, "Why am I not getting more? I am better than others. Doesn't God appreciate me?"

A person who feels superior is never satisfied, and God will never be able to satisfy him enough.

Where does the feeling of worthiness come from? It is rooted in the false ego, the false concept of one's destiny.

On the other hand, an enlightened person understands: "I am spirit and soul, eternal part and parcel of the Supreme Being. My goal and function is to serve and please Him. I exist for His pleasure."

The self-realized soul is in the consciousness of the giver, not receiver. In this condition, a person feels unworthy of God's mercy, and of the opportunities that come his way.

He sees his faults and deficiencies. This humility attracts God. Humble servants are awarded transcendental pleasures and happiness.

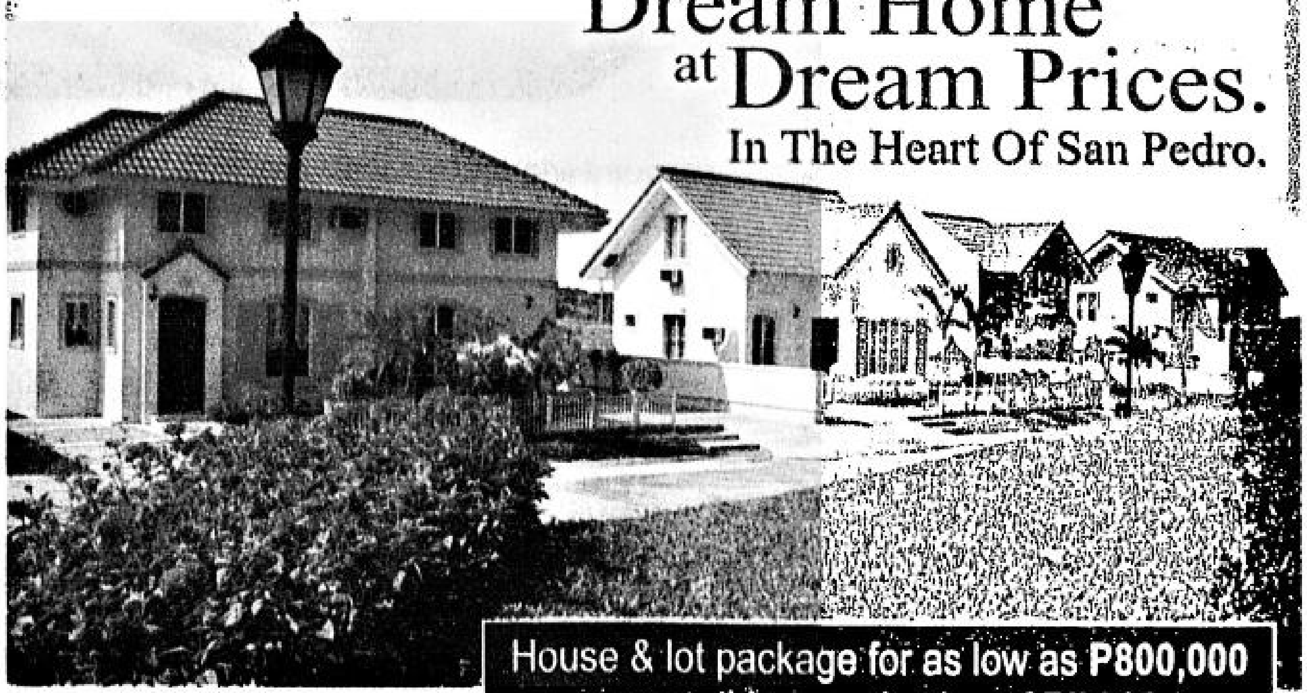
Cruelty

The self-realized soul is not immersed in self-pity. If one is humble, he doesn't find cruelty in people.

When Jesus Christ was being crucified, he didn't get angry and think, "I deserve justice here! I'm going to send an army to destroy those who have treated me unfairly."

Anger, jealousy and envy are symptoms of the false ego. Delusions of grandeur pull us away from humility, and from lovingly serving God.

Email lotuspond108@hotmail.com



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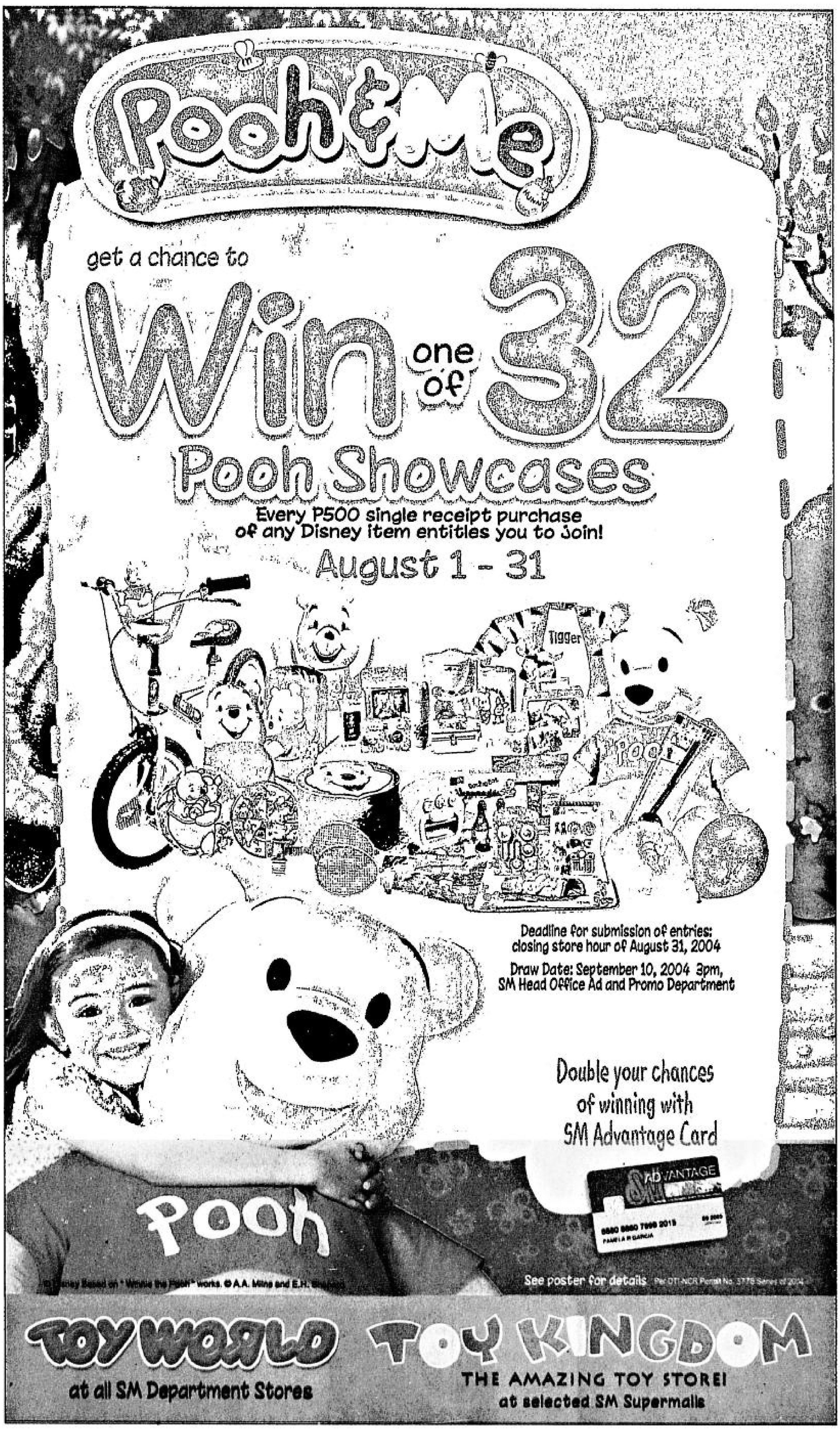
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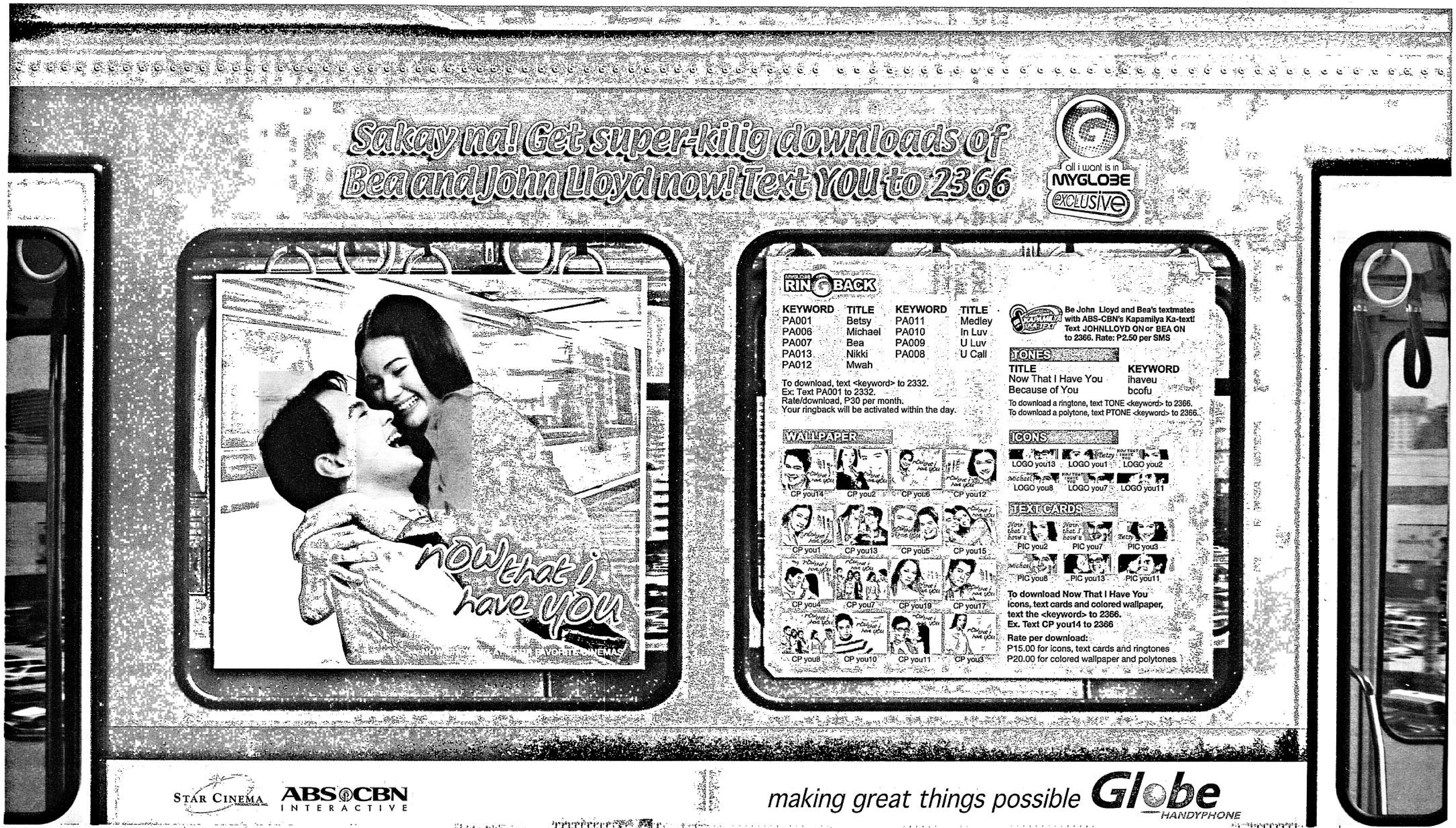

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BRANDO. Frank depiction of manly angst, passion and lust.

Brando's greatness remembered

By Nestor U. Torre

TOWARDS the last decade of his life and career, Marlon Brando had become something of a joke in Hollywood. His screen appearances were becoming both rarer and briefer, with only occasional cameos providing mere hints of the thespic range and power he once had.

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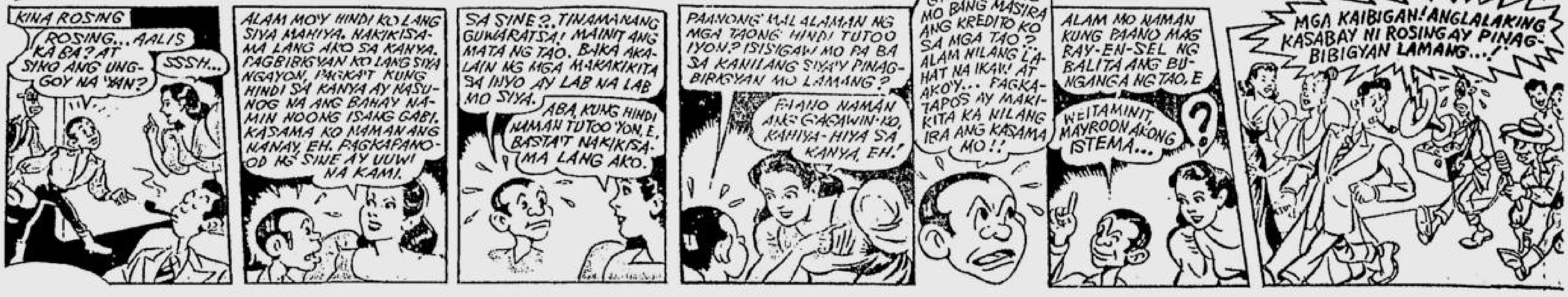
KENKOY KLASIKS by Tony Velasquez celebrating 75 years

5.48 from the LOPEZ MUSEUM collection / Courtesy of KOMIKS CAFE / INQ EDITION 8.14.04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Debut albums send mixed signals

By Rito P. Asilo

FOR us, buying records is like watching movies: You have to take the good with the bad, because that's the only way to winnow "grain from chaff"—the talented from the talentless. Our standards are stricter when it comes to singing, given the vaunted pool of natural talent brimming in this karaoke-crazy country.

With reality TV becoming more interactive and in-your-face—thus, more popular with viewers—talent searches abound. So, when we visit record stores, we purchase the recordings of the likes of Sandara Park and William Hung, along with those of Kelly Clarkson, Sarah Geronimo, Sheryn Regis and Fantasia Barrino. They are part of pop culture, but their varying qualities send mixed signals.

Variety

With so much variety, we are well aware that the listening experience is not going to be smooth sailing through and through. Take the case of Sandara. She oozes with charm and mass appeal, but if her handlers keep milking these endearing qualities by pushing her to do things that she's not naturally equipped to tackle, those assets could turn into liabilities in no time.

In Sandara's beautifully packaged five-track CD, it was fun to hear her sing Lito Camo's novelty song, "In or Out," an obvious send-up to the "Star Circle Quest" process from which she was discovered. To be fair, Sandara's effort is notches above William Hung's messy attempt at singing. But, her covers of popular ditties leave much to be desired.

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Listening to the likable Korean beauty sing "A Smile in Your Heart" (popularized by Jam Morales), and George Canseco's "Dear Heart" (the theme song of Sharon Cuneta's first movie) proved to be generally unpleasant.

Obviously, the two songs required more skill and technique than she had. Make her sing, sure, but be mindful of her vocal limitations! Stay away from well-loved ditties, and leave the great singing to the pros.

Which brings us to "American Idol" winner Fantasia Barrino. We find it really bizarre to find her three-song CD single, "I Believe," stacked up beside Hung's 15-track debut. Indeed, truth is stranger than fiction!

As a performer, Barrino's most appealing quality is the ebullient spirit that she brings to songs. Hers is a voice reminiscent of Aretha Franklin, not so much because of the similarity in timber and tonality, but more for the soulfulness that comes from the rich texture. She reworks Gershwin's "Summertime" with sass and class, minus the vocal affectation (which usually dilutes its meaning) common among powerful songstresses.

Strong vocalists

Fantasia shows us that great singing is not simply a matter of hitting the notes right, but exploring the core of a song's message. Unlike many strong vocalists, who treat a song like it's a battle to be won by transforming two-note measures into a prodigious eight-note endeavor, Fantasia sings the notes straight—and with a lot of heart!

Yes, the CD single contains Tamyra Gray's treacly, lung-busting, "inspirational" power ballad, "I Believe," but when you hear Barrino's smashing, funky version of Aretha's "Chain of Fools," aided by Mark Jaimes' slamming guitar riffs, James McMillan's inspired horn arrangement and a sizzling *a cappella* coda with backup singer Priscilla Jones, she will turn you into a believer.

Schmaltz or not, Fantasia's single, "I Believe," debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's Hot 100, while Diana DeGarmo's debut single, "Dreams," released a week later, hit the chart at No. 14, and has since faded into oblivion.

Brando's . . .

From page E1

Right after he died, however, the movie world belatedly remembered the Brando who once was, and the radical way that he transformed the way actors performed in the theater, and on the big screen.

Predecessors

Brando's predecessors, thespians like Montgomery Clift and Leslie Howard, tended to be sensitive, lyrical, effete, and decidedly deodorized. When Brando literally burst on the acting scene, with his muscles, pout, slur, scratch and scream, he shocked both audiences and other actors into rethinking their very concept of dramatic performance.

Before Brando, they stressed sensitivity and lyricism above all else. They were romantic, ardent and troubled men as women idealized them—manly, but safely, discreetly so.

Brando threw discretion to the wind, and both scared and thrilled female viewers with his frank, blunt and even coarse depiction of manly angst, passion—and lust.

Beside him, his contemporaries and elders in the acting profession came off as weak-willed, lily-livered pansies.

Ironically, rumors about Brando's own gender-bending proclivities were rife during his raw ascendancy, and even after. But, his screen image remained that of a man's man, despite his being linked to the suspect likes of James Dean and Wally Cox.

When it came to seething, passionate, macho performance, Brando left other actors far, far behind. An entertainment observer in the '50s and '60s described the thespic scene at the time:

"No other actor has shone so brightly in his constellation. Brando is a star hiding from his planets. James Dean, Paul Newman, Steve McQueen and Warren Beatty have merely circled in his orbit.

Influence

"Scores of other well-known performers acknowledge his influence—Dustin Hoffman, Robert Redford, Jack Nicholson, etc. And, as he spawned more emulators, he grew more and more exacerbated with them."

Brando's versatility and devotion to acting were so exceptional that directors scrambled for his services. After working with him in "The Young Lions," director Edward Dmytryk marvelled, "Marlon's a chameleon. He slips in and out of characters as though they were costumes. It's hard to imagine a role he couldn't interpret!"

How did he do it? By being passionately creative, thinking of nothing else, and being as honest and real as he could. To Brando, acting wasn't performing, it was *being* the character assigned to him.

No other actor exceeded his zeal for on-target, completely believable characterization. Another observer gushed, "Were he assigned the part of a blind man, he wouldn't open his eyes for weeks—to absorb the reality of blindness. As an actor, Marlon dissects each role with an almost forensic scrupulousness."

A director agreed: "Marlon Brando can portray just about any character except Tugboat Annie, and make you believe it."

Lavish praise

This lavish praise led to the creation of a new term—"Brandolatry." In the '90s, it was cavalierly forgotten, as viewers found other younger, less contentious actors to dote on.

Now that Brando is gone, however, his greatness has been remembered and honored anew, and "Brandolatry" has seized his fans once more!

Youth and media

By Nestor U. Torre

WE recently addressed a conference on helping young people get their voices heard in the media. Our major points:

First, we should get over the notion that newspapermen have to be paid for them to grant space to what people want to say.

This notion discourages many from even trying to get their messages and opinions in the newspapers, and thus becomes that completely useless phenomenon, the self-fulfilling prophecy.

Ethics

It's true that some journalists are for sale, or for rent, but there are those who are true to their profession's ethics, and find satisfaction mainly in informing and serving the public.

The thing is to find those open-minded people, and to ask them to give newspaper space to what we want to say. How do we determine who they are? Ask around. PR people, for instance, know what's what, and who's who, who does and who doesn't.

First, come up with a comprehensive list of possible print outlets. Next, identify which publications are best-suited to your message. The scattershot approach is often a waste of time and energy.

Having identified your outlets of choice, ask around and determine which particular editors are in charge of the sections you want to get into. Then, by phone, through a letter or in person, inform the editor of your group's intentions and objectives.

Many people and organizations don't find space in newspapers and magazines because they don't know how to translate their lofty objectives into media terms.

Homework

They think that it's media's job to do this. Well, in a sense, it is, but we have to do our homework first, and not just dump everything on the editor's lap.

After all, we have to remember that dozens of other groups are trying to get his ear and his help, so as much as possible, we have to make things easy for him.

We should also be fully prepared, with all the information and visualizations needed, or else the process will take up too much of our and the editor's time.

It is very important that we do our best to bring our message down to personal terms. This is because the reader is a person, and he responds best when he can relate to what is being written about.

Message

Finally, we should remember that many people are competing for the same limited newspaper space. So, we shouldn't fret if it takes time for our message to see print, or if it's given what we feel is insufficient space.

If, despite all these tips and gambits, you still bump against a stone wall, remember that this is *the Philippines*, so do the Filipino thing and ask your relatives and friends if they know somebody, hopefully somebody influential, in your newspaper of choice.

Every little bit helps. And, in the Philippine setting, this is sometimes the little bit that does the trick!

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM AUG 14 - AUG 20

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	25	29
[illegible]	6:30 Star in A Million 7:30 TV Patrol 8:00 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 9:00 Home Along da Airport 10:00 Victim 11:00 Kontrobersyal 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 National Geographic 7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player	6:00 Asian 9 Ball 7:00 Viva Box Office *Pusoy Dos* 9:00 Sing-Galing 10:00 Maverick and Ariel 10:00 On-Air 11:00 ABC Treats *Red Line*	5:30 Pinoy Pop Superstar 6:30 Bitoy's Funniest Videos 7:30 Extra Challenge 8:15 Imbestigador 9:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 11:10 Kakabakaba Adventures	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	6:00 Visa & Job Info Show 7:00 Bitag 8:00 Legacy of Hero 9:00 World Women's Grand Prix 2004 11:00 Iyo ang Katarungan	6:00 Sports TV 6:30 Game Plan 7:00 7th Heaven 7:45 Boston Public 8:45 America's Next Top Model 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:15 Reel Deel	6:00 Agila Reports 6:30 Screen Savers 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 Car Guys 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Ang Tamang Daan 10:00 Pasugo	6:00 RJ Music Videos 9:00 Music Videos 10:00 Music Videos 11:00 Music Videos
[illegible]	5:30 Rated K-Handa Ka Na Ba? 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Tanging Ina 9:30 Sunday Family Cinema 11:30 The Weekend News	6:00 15th Mitsubishi Lancer Int'l Juniors Tennis Championships 9:00 Go For Gold 11:00 Unlimited Diving	5:00 Best of PBA Games 7:00 Viva Cine Idols *Hukom 45* 9:00 Fear Factor 10:00 Single 10:30 ABC Onstage *Josh Groban*	6:00 Partners Mel & Jay 7:30 KI The P1 Million Videoke Challenge 9:00 Daddy Di Do Du 10:00 Sunday Night Box Office	6:00 Smack Down Wrestling 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 May Puso ang Batas 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 URRC TV	6:00 Home Shopping Network 7:00 Japan Video Topic 8:00 D.E.N.R. 9:00 In This Corner 10:00 MTV Filler 10:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Nging 7:00 The Amazing Race 8:00 Two & a Half Men 8:30 Just Shoot Me 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 F 10:15 Digital Tour 10:45 The Bachelor 11:30 Scariest Places on Earth	6:00 Captured 6:30 Fresh Gear 7:00 Convergence 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 New Yankee Workshop 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Ang Tamang Daan 10:00 Ang Iglesia ni Cristo	6:00 RJ Music Videos 9:00 Music Videos 10:00 Music Videos 11:00 Music Videos
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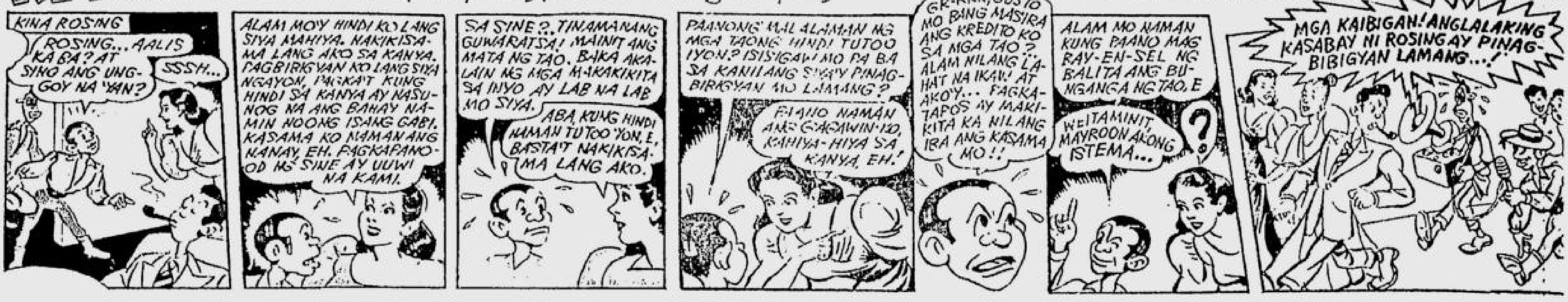
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Strong vocalists

Fantasia shows us that great singing is not simply a matter of hitting the notes right, but exploring the core of a song's message. Unlike many strong vocalists, who treat a song like it's a battle to be won by transforming two-note measures into a prodigious eight-note endeavor, Fantasia sings the notes straight—and with a lot of heart!

Yes, the CD single contains Tamyra Gray's treacly, lung-busting, "inspirational" power ballad, "I Believe," but when you hear Barrino's smashing, funky version of Aretha's "Chain of Fools," aided by Mark Jaimes' slamming guitar riffs, James McMillan's inspired horn arrangement and a sizzling *a cappella* coda with backup singer Priscilla Jones, she will turn you into a believer.

Schmaltz or not, Fantasia's single, "I Believe," debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's Hot 100, while Diana DeGarmo's debut single, "Dreams," released a week later, hit the chart at No. 14, and has since faded into oblivion.

Brando's . . .

From page E1

Right after he died, however, the movie world belatedly remembered the Brando who once was, and the radical way that he transformed the way actors performed in the theater, and on the big screen.

Predecessors

Brando's predecessors, thespians like Montgomery Clift and Leslie Howard, tended to be sensitive, lyrical, effete, and decidedly deodorized. When Brando literally burst on the acting scene, with his muscles, pout, slur, scratch and scream, he shocked both audiences and other actors into rethinking their very concept of dramatic performance.

Before Brando, they stressed sensitivity and lyricism above all else. They were romantic, ardent and troubled men as women idealized them—manly, but safely, discreetly so.

Brando threw discretion to the wind, and both scared and thrilled female viewers with his frank, blunt and even coarse depiction of manly angst, passion—and lust.

Beside him, his contemporaries and elders in the acting profession came off as weak-willed, lily-livered pansies.

Ironically, rumors about Brando's own gender-bending proclivities were rife during his raw ascendancy, and even after. But, his screen image remained that of a man's man, despite his being linked to the suspect likes of James Dean and Wally Cox.

When it came to seething, passionate, macho performance, Brando left other actors far, far behind. An entertainment observer in the '50s and '60s described the thespic scene at the time:

"No other actor has shone so brightly in his constellation. Brando is a star hiding from his planets. James Dean, Paul Newman, Steve McQueen and Warren Beatty have merely circled in his orbit.

Influence

"Scores of other well-known performers acknowledge his influence—Dustin Hoffman, Robert Redford, Jack Nicholson, etc. And, as he spawned more emulators, he grew more and more exacerbated with them."

Brando's versatility and devotion to acting were so exceptional that directors scrambled for his services. After working with him in "The Young Lions," director Edward Dmytryk marvelled, "Marlon's a chameleon. He slips in and out of characters as though they were costumes. It's hard to imagine a role he couldn't interpret!"

How did he do it? By being passionately creative, thinking of nothing else, and being as honest and real as he could. To Brando, acting wasn't performing, it was *being* the character assigned to him.

No other actor exceeded his zeal for on-target, completely believable characterization. Another observer gushed, "Were he assigned the part of a blind man, he wouldn't open his eyes for weeks—to absorb the reality of blindness. As an actor, Marlon dissects each role with an almost forensic scrupulousness."

A director agreed: "Marlon Brando can portray just about any character except Tugboat Annie, and make you believe it."

Lavish praise

This lavish praise led to the creation of a new term—"Brandolatry." In the '90s, it was cavalierly forgotten, as viewers found other younger, less contentious actors to dote on.

Now that Brando is gone, however, his greatness has been remembered and honored anew, and "Brandolatry" has seized his fans once more!

Youth and media

By Nestor U. Torre

WE recently addressed a conference on helping young people get their voices heard in the media. Our major points:

First, we should get over the notion that newspapermen have to be paid for them to grant space to what people want to say.

This notion discourages many from even trying to get their messages and opinions in the newspapers, and thus becomes that completely useless phenomenon, the self-fulfilling prophecy.

Ethics

It's true that some journalists are for sale, or for rent, but there are those who are true to their profession's ethics, and find satisfaction mainly in informing and serving the public.

The thing is to find those open-minded people, and to ask them to give newspaper space to what we want to say. How do we determine who they are? Ask around. PR people, for instance, know what's what, and who's who, who does and who doesn't.

First, come up with a comprehensive list of possible print outlets. Next, identify which publications are best-suited to your message. The scattershot approach is often a waste of time and energy.

Having identified your outlets of choice, ask around and determine which particular editors are in charge of the sections you want to get into. Then, by phone, through a letter or in person, inform the editor of your group's intentions and objectives.

Many people and organizations don't find space in newspapers and magazines because they don't know how to translate their lofty objectives into media terms.

Homework

They think that it's media's job to do this. Well, in a sense, it is, but we have to do our homework first, and not just dump everything on the editor's lap.

After all, we have to remember that dozens of other groups are trying to get his ear and his help, so as much as possible, we have to make things easy for him.

We should also be fully prepared, with all the information and visualizations needed, or else the process will take up too much of our and the editor's time.

It is very important that we do our best to bring our message down to personal terms. This is because the reader is a person, and he responds best when he can relate to what is being written about.

Message

Finally, we should remember that many people are competing for the same limited newspaper space. So, we shouldn't fret if it takes time for our message to see print, or if it's given what we feel is insufficient space.

If, despite all these tips and gambits, you still bump against a stone wall, remember that this is *the Philippines*, so do the Filipino thing and ask your relatives and friends if they know somebody, hopefully somebody influential, in your newspaper of choice.

Every little bit helps. And, in the Philippine setting, this is sometimes the little bit that does the trick!

[illegible] AUG 20

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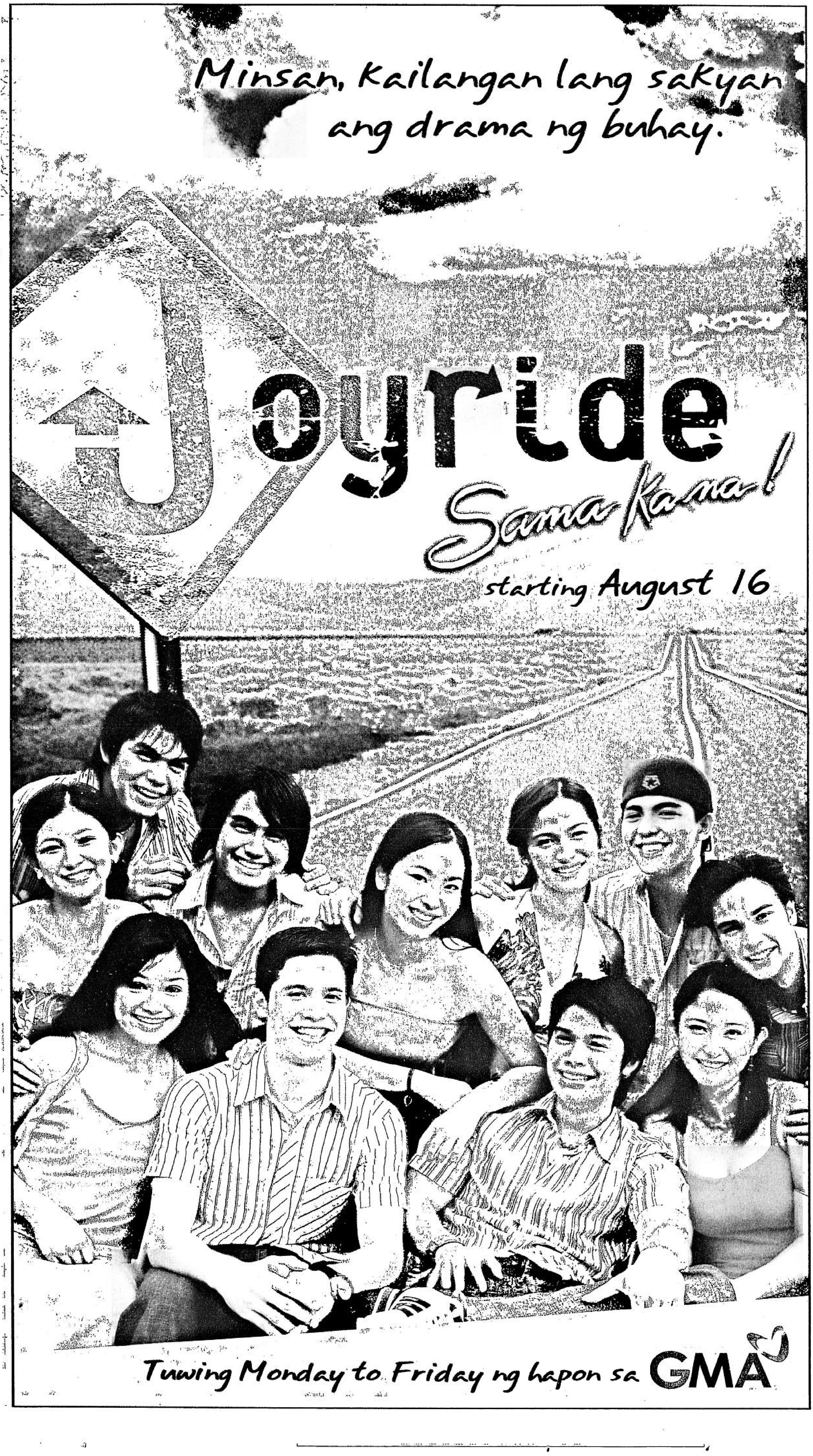
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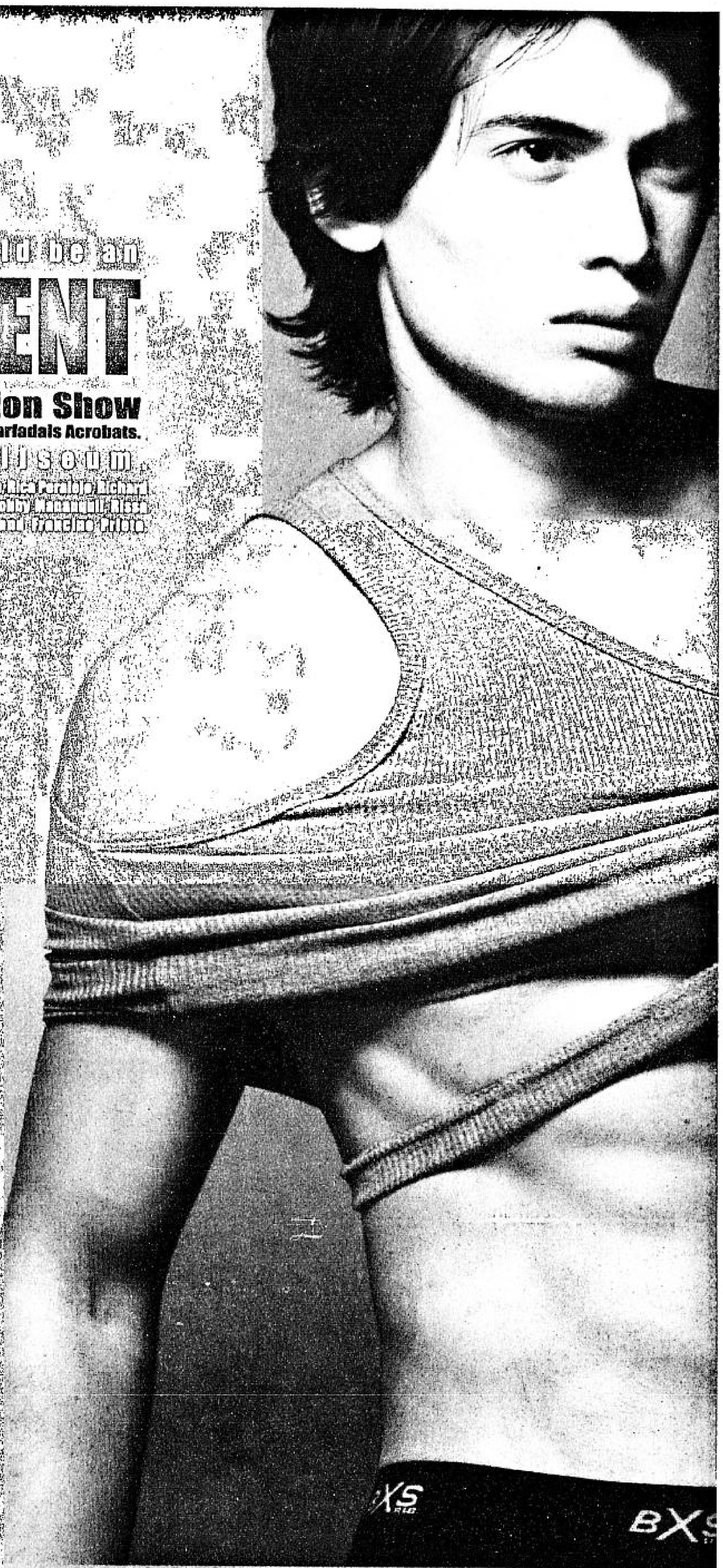

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Angelica Panganiban makes her bid for young-adult stardom

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN Angelica Panganiban began her TV-film career as a child star, she generally played second fiddle to Camille Prats. But, this year, all of a sudden, Angelica has outpaced her similarly pretty and heretofore more popular contemporary—and therein lies an instructive show biz story:

Angelica's first significant career move earlier this year was to play a streetwise character on the TV soap, "Mangarap Ka." She and her handlers moved decisively to get viewers to forget her child-star origins, and to take the "new" Angelica on her own more mature and feisty terms.

Gambit

We put "new" in quotes, because the gambit didn't succeed all that well, since the young actress' remaining pockets of baby fat couldn't be completely mitigated even by heavy make-up.

Angelica is doing much better with her major follow-up move, this time to assert herself as a young-adult movie star by way of Laurice Guillen's significant new film, "Santa-Santita," where Angelica has snagged no less than the title role.

It's said that the production had to audition some 30 actresses, including some rather big names, to find the right young woman to play the challenging title role. What did Angelica have or do to convince the movie's makers that she was "it"?

Right combination

She projected the right combination of youth and *maldita* ways. The female lead role demands sexiness, but much more than that, it requires the actress tapped to play it to be dramatically intense and insightful, as her character has to contend with many daunting thespic challenges.

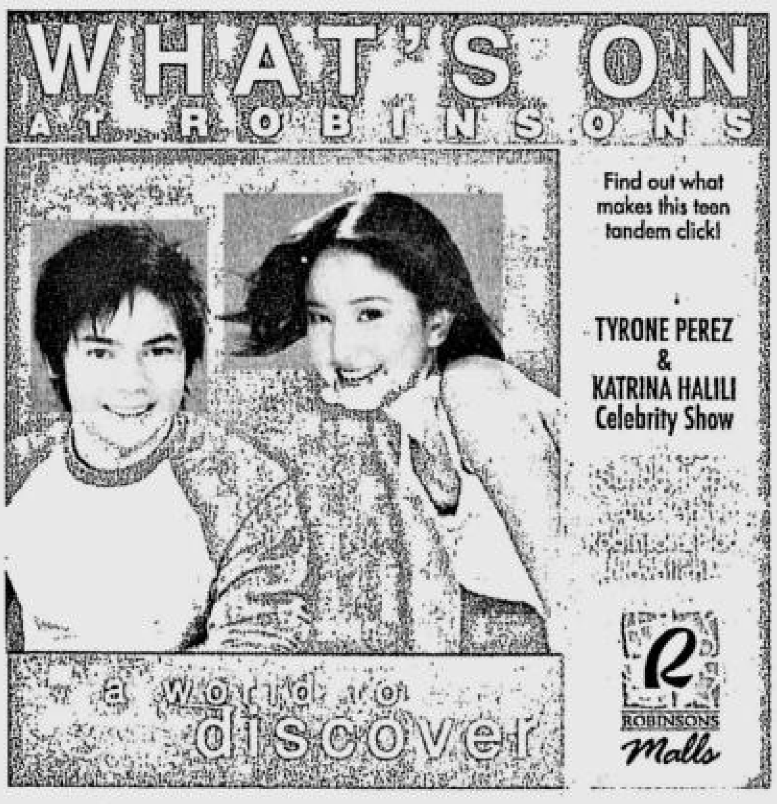
Will Angelica be up to those rigorous challenges? Early rushes indicate that Angelica will come up with a memorable and potentially "awardable" performance in the film, despite similarly strong portrayals by Jericho Rosales as her seducer-nemesis, and Johnny Delgado as a "fallen" priest.

We trust that Angelica does score heavily in "Santa-Santita," because local TV-film screens are in dire need of genuine thespic excitement these days.

Performances by young actors have become so homogenized, shallow and predictable that many youth-oriented TV and

ANGELICA/ F3

PANGANIBAN. Has to contend with many daunting thespic challenges.



Find out what makes this teen tandem click!
TYRONE PEREZ
&
KATRINA HALILI
Celebrity Show

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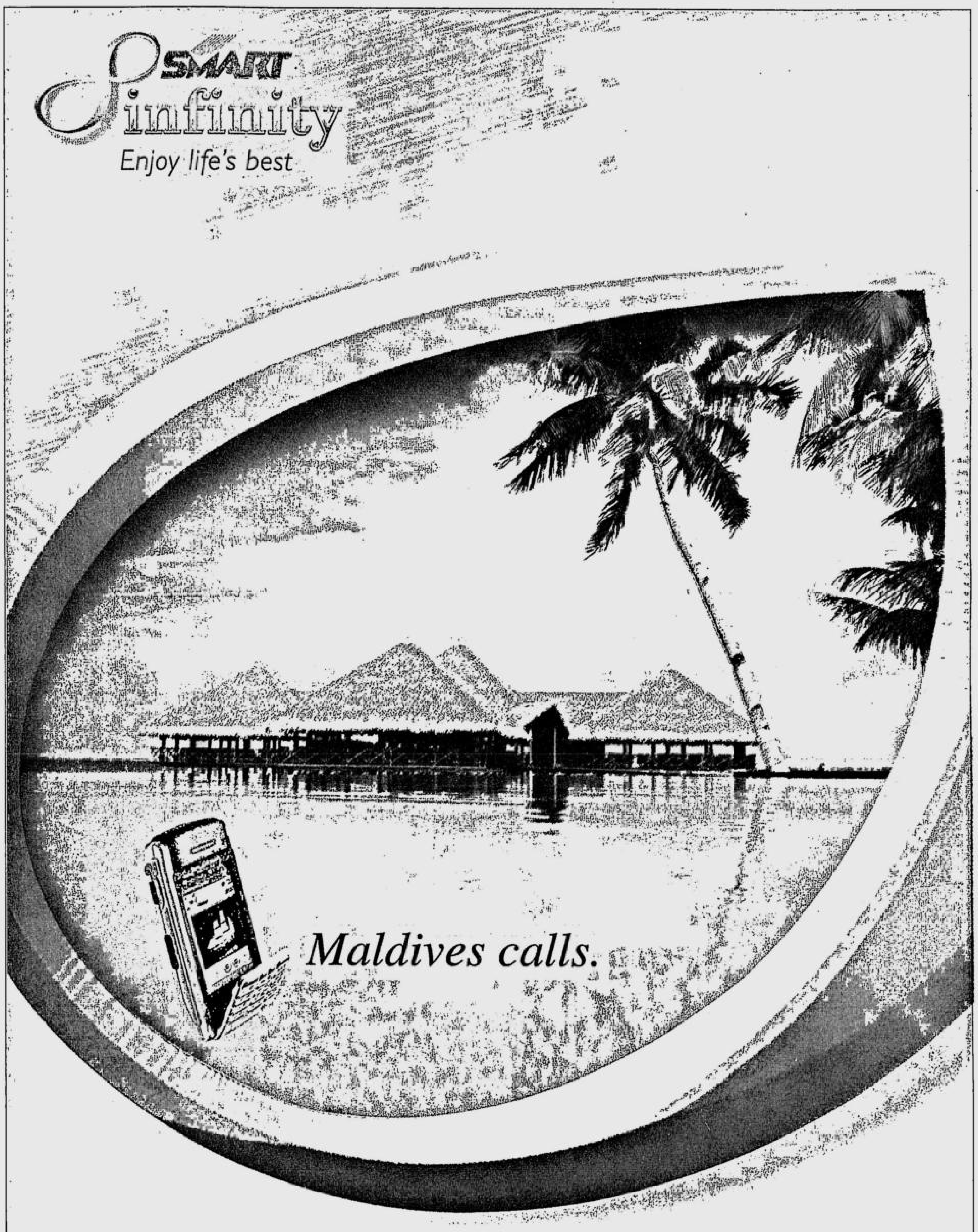

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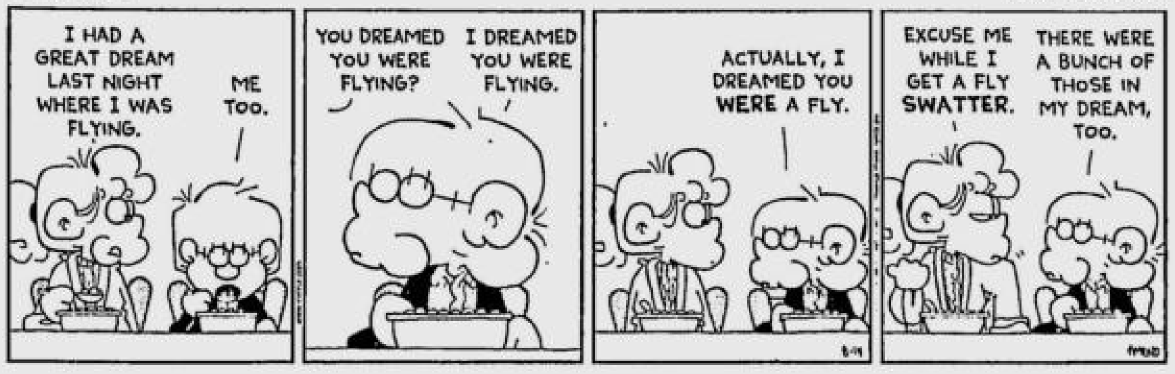
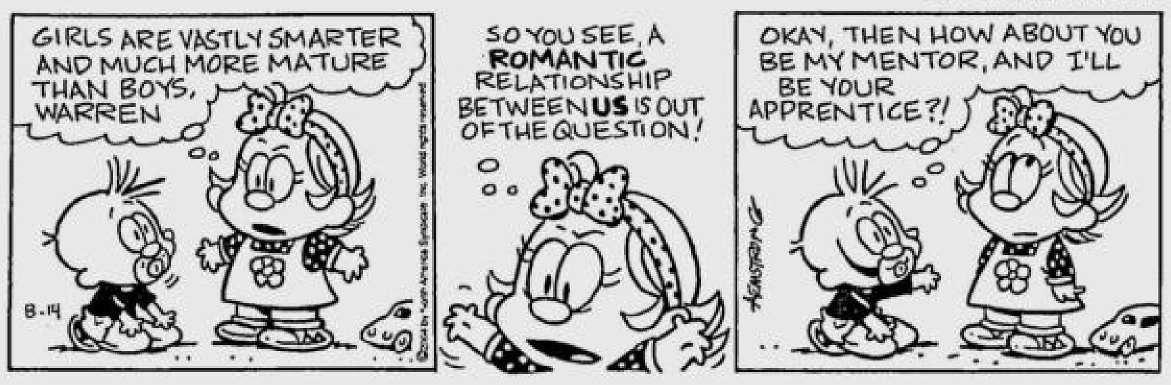
BY BILL AMEND


I HAD A GREAT DREAM LAST NIGHT WHERE I WAS FLYING.
ME TOO.
YOU DREAMED YOU WERE FLYING?
I DREAMED YOU WERE FLYING.
ACTUALLY, I DREAMED YOU WERE A FLY.
EXCUSE ME WHILE I GET A FLY SWATTER.
THERE WERE A BUNCH OF THOSE IN MY DREAM, TOO.
8-14

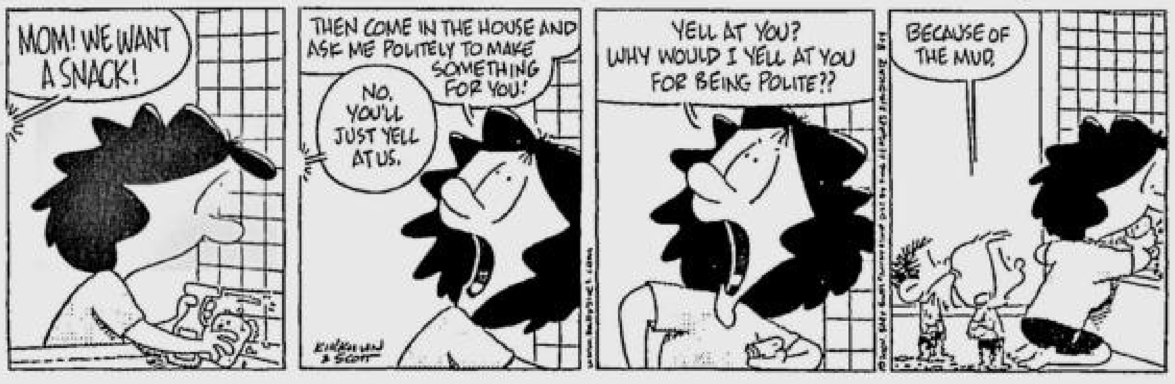
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


GIRLS ARE VASTLY SMARTER AND MUCH MORE MATURE THAN BOYS, WARREN
8-14
SO YOU SEE, A ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US IS OUT OF THE QUESTION!
OKAY, THEN HOW ABOUT YOU BE MY MENTOR, AND I'LL BE YOUR APPRENTICE?!
ARMSTRONG

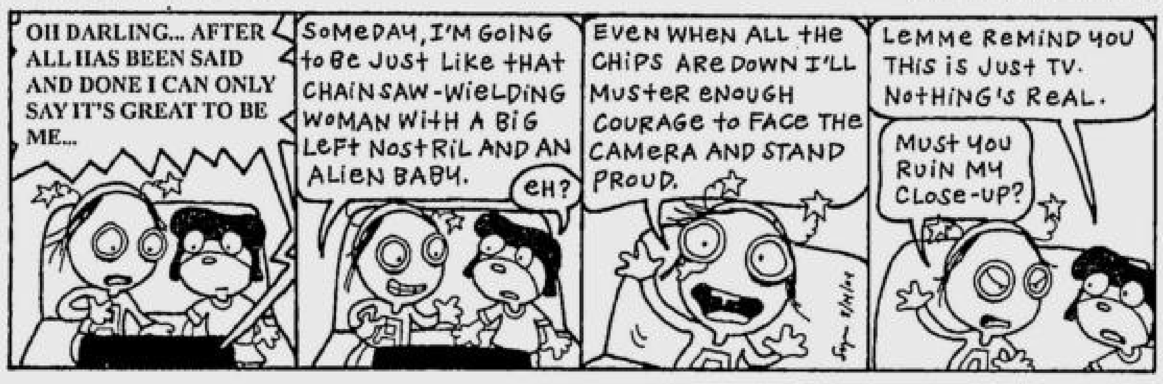
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MOM! WE WANT A SNACK!
THEN COME IN THE HOUSE AND ASK ME POLITELY TO MAKE SOMETHING FOR YOU!
NO. YOU'LL JUST YELL AT US.
YELL AT YOU? WHY WOULD I YELL AT YOU FOR BEING POLITE??
BECAUSE OF THE MUD.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OH DARLING... AFTER ALL HAS BEEN SAID AND DONE I CAN ONLY SAY IT'S GREAT TO BE ME...
SOMEDAY, I'M GOING TO BE JUST LIKE THAT CHAINSAW-WIELDING WOMAN WITH A BIG LEFT NOSTRIL AND AN ALIEN BABY.
EH?
EVEN WHEN ALL THE CHIPS ARE DOWN I'LL MUSTER ENOUGH COURAGE TO FACE THE CAMERA AND STAND PROUD.
LEMME REMIND YOU THIS IS JUST TV. NOTHING'S REAL.
MUST YOU RUIN MY CLOSE-UP?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're witty and funny. Your keen ability to observe the human condition is the source of your humor. You often expose the foibles of rigid and narrow-minded people. However, your personal relationships are private and very important to you. Exciting new beginnings await you this year. You're on a new path in your life!

Birthdate of: Halle Berry, actress; Earvin "Magic" Johnson, basketball champ: Steve Martin, actor/ comic.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good time to figure out how you can improve your relations with children and young people. What can you do to nurture the child within you?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Think about what you can do to improve your family relations. Also think about how to improve your living conditions.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You are the wordsmith of the zodiac. You have a flair for words. How can you use your communication skills to promote relations with your family?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You are a thrifty, practical sign. This is a good time to draw up a budget and monitor your spending habits. You want to make your money work for you so that you get the best value.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today and tomorrow, both the Moon and the Sun are in your sign. This is the only time all year this will occur. Think about what you want to achieve in the year ahead.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You definitely need increased privacy and solitude today. Make sure you get some time to be by yourself to contemplate your navel.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You like to have somebody on the other end of your teeter-totter. You're not a loner—not really. What can you do to improve the quality of friendship in your life?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You can expect to be dealing with a strong authority figure today or tomorrow. People listen to you! You're the kind of person who naturally commands respect.

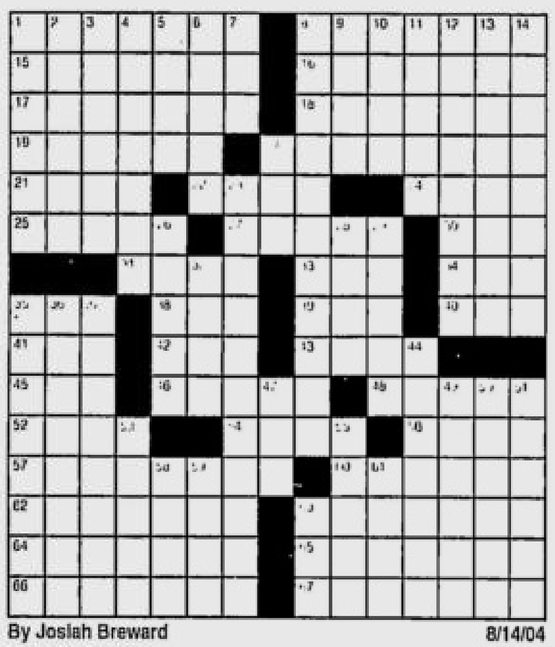
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You have an increasing desire to travel and broaden your horizons. Go ahead with plans for these areas. You want to learn more about the world.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Now is the time for you to clearly define where your responsibilities for someone or something begin and end. You need to know where you stand.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): The Sun and the Moon oppose your sign today. This gives you an opportunity to examine your closest relationships and see yourself as others see you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Act on your urge to get organized. You want to put your hand out and find whatever you need whenever you need it. (You'll love yourself if you do this.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA
8/14/04

ACROSS
1 Go on a spree
8 Barterer
15 Long-time pals
16 "The Once and Future King" writer
17 Shout of praise
18 Perform again
19 Like some jobs or jokes
20 Soho resident
21 Hold back
22 Adolescent
24 Speck
25 Amble leisurely
27 West African river
30 Actor Kingsley
31 Beatles song, "__ Prudence"
33 Tavern drink
34 Javelin's path
35 Is plural?
38 Full-house letters
39 Diamond stat
40 Team cheer
41 Ex-QB Dawson
42 Moray or conger
43 Lion's do
45 False front
46 Ointment
48 Subway stations
52 Webster of words
54 Created
56 First name in mysteries
57 Some tennis officials
60 "The Picture of __ Gray"
62 "Let's Stay Together" singer
63 Official seals
64 "Marty" director Mann
65 Strait off Italy
66 Frocks
67 Rolling Stones hit, "Gimme __"

DOWN
1 Division into factions
2 Quickly!
3 Defeats
4 Awaiting a target?
5 Tough outer covering
6 "The Screens" dramatist
7 ISS partner
8 Used muscle
9 As soon as
10 Filled with reverence
11 __ Penh, Cambodia
12 Musical lounge
13 And so forth
14 Move to a fallback position
20 Hawaiian souvenir
23 Class figures
26 Words of approval
28 Exile isle
29 Horse controllers
32 Surface measure
35 "Shane" star
36 Backpedaler of a sort
37 Twist together
44 Unending
47 Pianist Cliburn
49 "Murder on the __ Express"
50 Missouri tributary
51 Detection device
53 Seasoning plants
55 Designer Head
58 Observes
59 Inconsequential
61 Shrek, e.g.
63 Mayday!

Friday's Puzzle Solved

E	R	L	E		A	S	C	O	T		B	A	S	E
R	E	A	P		L	U	R	C	H		A	P	E	S
E	S	T	E		T	R	A	C	E		T	R	A	P
C	O	V	E	N	O	F	W	I	T	C	H	E	S	
T	R	I		E	S	E		D	A	H		S	H	E
S	T	A	R	R		R	Y	E		E	S	S	E	X
			E	V	A		E	N	D		O	K	L	A
H	O	L	L	Y	H	U	N	T	E	R	F	I	L	M
I	R	A	E		A	R	T		R	O	A			
F	A	C	E	T		B	L	T		A	R	R	O	W
I	T	E		U	S	A		A	E	S		I	D	A
	O	R	I	G	I	N	A	L	S	T	A	T	E	S
A	R	A	B		T	I	D	E	S		L	U	S	H
L	I	T	E		A	T	O	N	E		E	A	S	E
P	O	E	T		R	E	S	T	S		C	L	A	D

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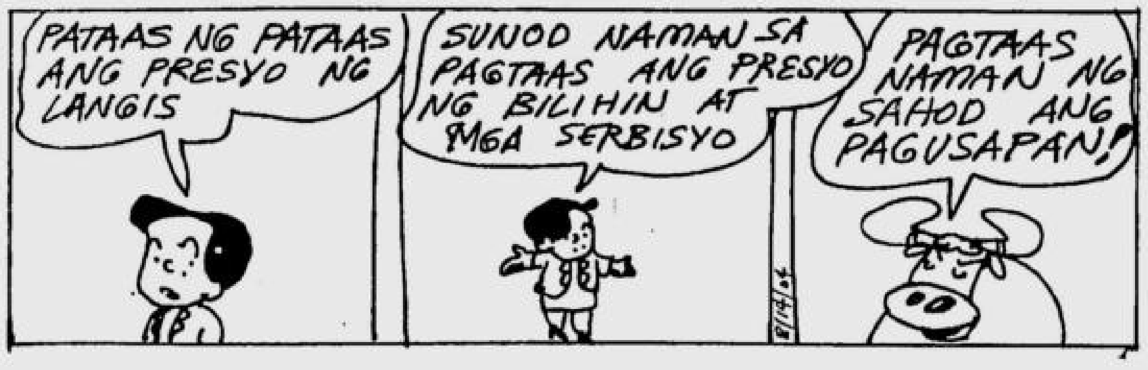
8/14/04

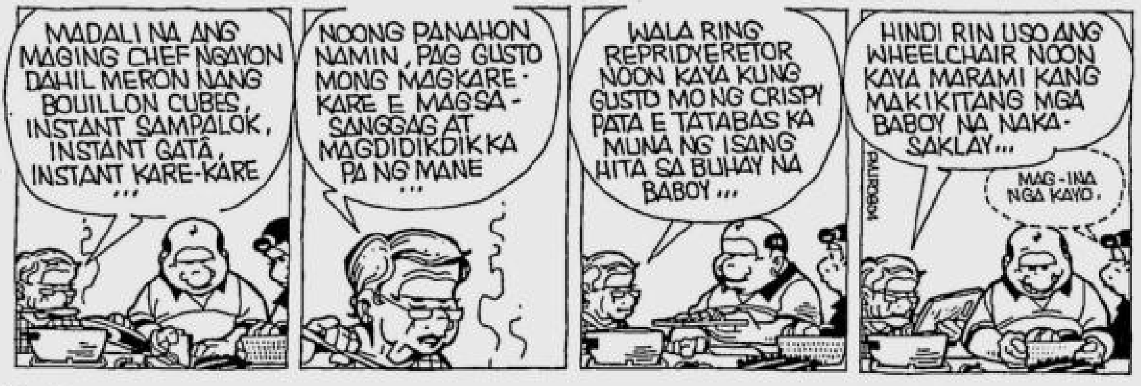
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PATAAS NG PATAAS ANG PRESYO NG LANGIS
SUNOD NAMAN SA PAGTAAS ANG PRESYO NG BILIHIN AT MGA SERBISYO
8/14/04
PAGTAAS NAMAN NG SAHOD ANG PAGUSAPAN!

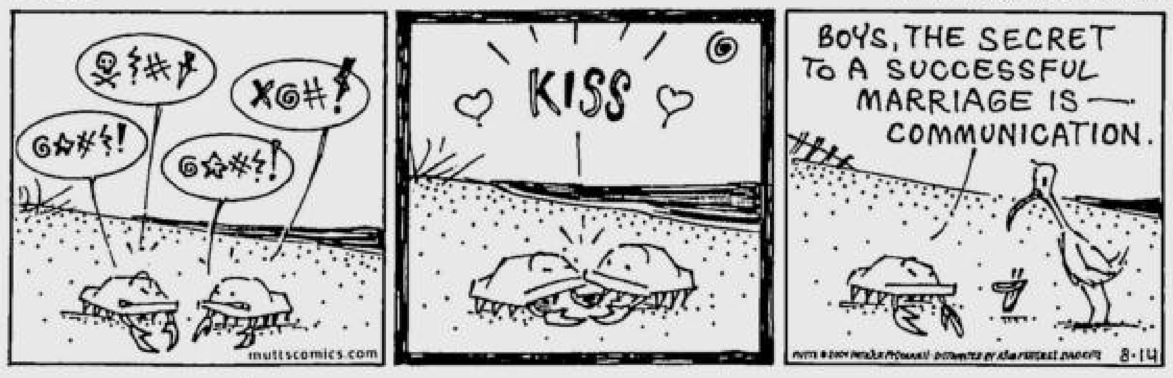
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MADALI NA ANG MAGING CHEF NGAYON DAHIL MERON NANG BOUILLON CUBES, INSTANT SAMPALOK, INSTANT GATÂ, INSTANT KARE-KARE ...
NOONG PANAHON NAMIN, PAG GUSTO MONG MAGKARE-KARE E MAGSA-SANGGAG AT MAGDIDIKDIK KA PA NG MANE ...
WALA RING REPRIDYERETOR NOON KAYA KUNG GUSTO MO NG CRISPY PATA E TATABAS KA MUNA NG ISANG HITA SA BUHAY NA BABOY ...
HINDI RIN USO ANG WHEELCHAIR NOON KAYA MARAMI KANG MAKIKITANG MGA BABOY NA NAKA-SAKLAY...
MAG-INA NGA KAYO.

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL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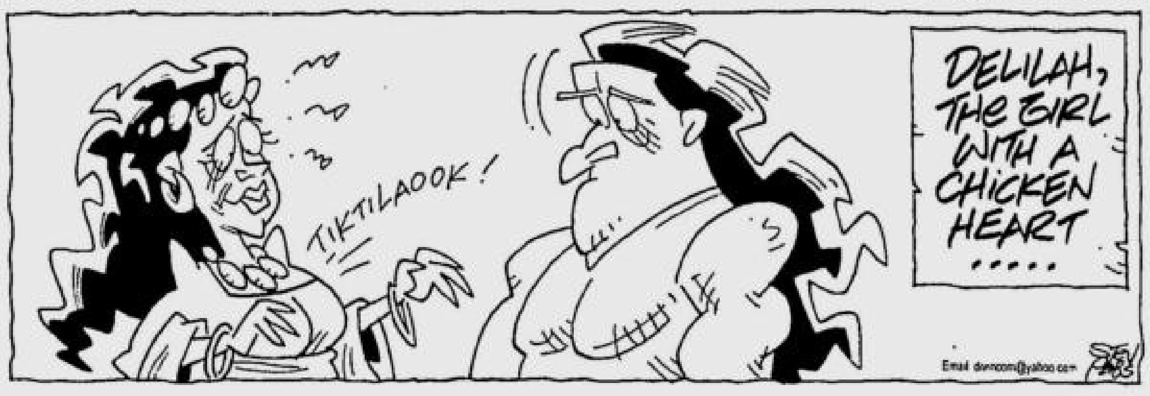
8-14

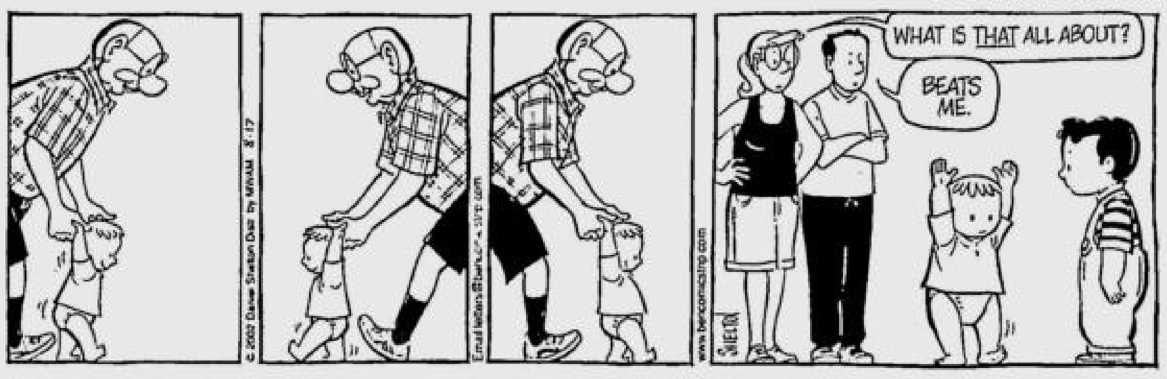
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


TIKTILAOOK!
DELILAH, THE GIRL WITH A CHICKEN HEART .....
Email: divncom@yahoo.com

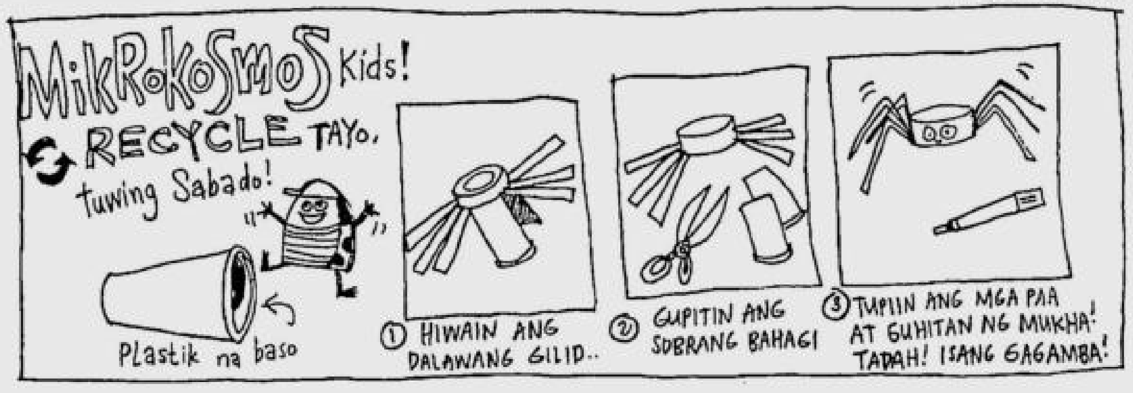
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT IS THAT ALL ABOUT?
BEATS ME.
www.bencomicstrip.com

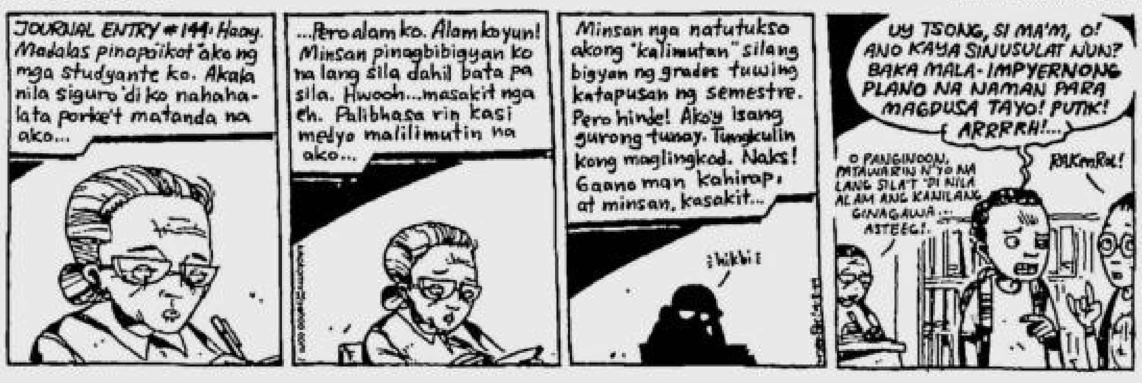
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRoKoSMoS Kids!
RECYCLE TAYO, tuwing Sabado!
Plastik na baso
① HIWAIN ANG DALAWANG GILID..
② GUPITIN ANG SOBRANG BAHAGI
③ TUPIIN ANG MGA PAA AT GUHITAN NG MUKHA! TADAH! ISANG GAGAMBA!

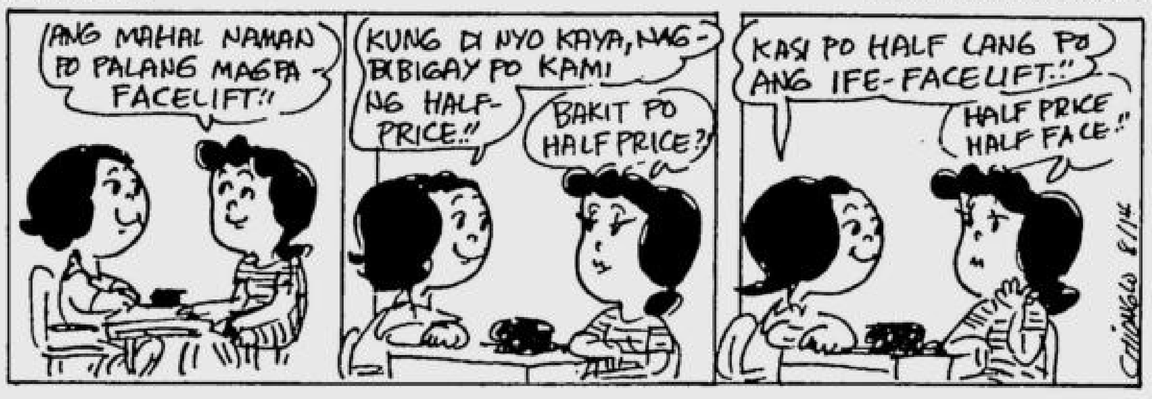
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


JOURNAL ENTRY #144: Haay. Madalas pinopaikot ako ng mga studyante ko. Akala nila siguro 'di ko nahahalata porke't matanda na ako...
...Pero alam ko. Alam ko yun! Minsan pinagbibigyan ko na lang sila dahil bata pa sila. Hwooh...masakit nga eh. Palibhasa rin kasi medyo malilimutin na ako...
Minsan nga natutukso akong "kalimutan" silang bigyan ng grades tuwing katapusan ng semestre. Pero hinde! Ako'y isang gurong tunay. Tungkulin kong maglingkod. Naks! Gaano man kahirap, at minsan, kasakit...
ihikhi
UY TSONG, SI MA'M, O! ANO KAYA SINUSULAT NUN? BAKA MALA-IMPYERNONG PLANO NA NAMAN PARA MAGDUSA TAYO! PUTIK! ARRRRH!...
O PANGINOON, PATAWARIN N'YO NA LANG SILA'T 'DI NILA ALAM ANG KANILANG GINAGAWA... ASTEEG!
RAKenRol!

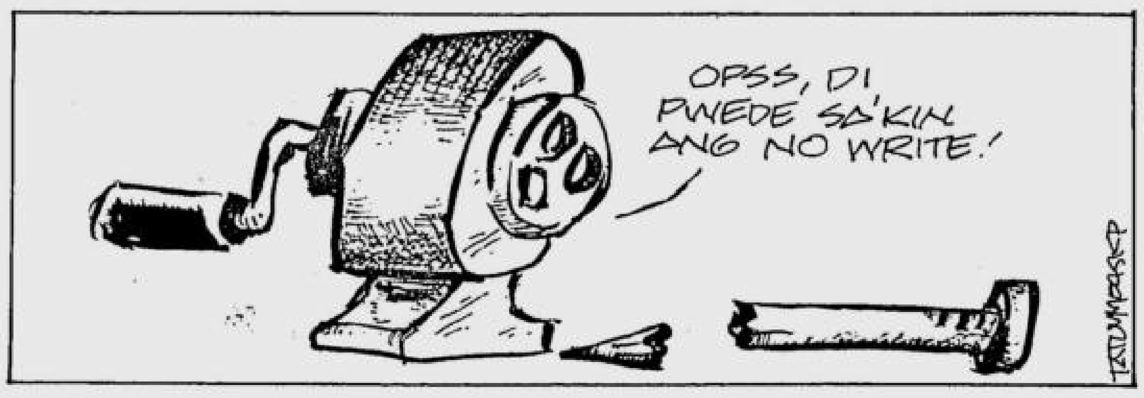
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG MAHAL NAMAN PO PALANG MAGPA-FACELIFT!!
KUNG DI NYO KAYA, NAGBIBIGAY PO KAMI NG HALF-PRICE!!
BAKIT PO HALF PRICE?!
KASI PO HALF LANG PO ANG IFE-FACELIFT!!
HALF PRICE HALF FACE!!
CHIONGLO 8/14

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OPSS, DI PWEDE SA'KIN ANG NO WRITE!
TATUM PAPU

NOW SHOWING

Triumph of casting against type

By Rito P. Asilo

"Collateral"

D: Michael Mann
S: Tom Cruise

TOM Cruise plays the bad guy, Jamie Foxx the hero and Jada Pinkett Smith the damsel in distress. —What's wrong with this picture? Answer: Nothing. Mann's intelligent film is a triumph of casting—against type, that is.

Cruise delivers one of his best performances as a gray-haired assassin, Vincent, who is hired to wipe out vital witnesses against a Latino drug lord, Felix (Javier Bardem in a cameo). He "forces" a cabbie (Foxx) to drive him from one hit to another.

Mann takes time to tell his story, but by the time the pace picks up, his characters' motives and objectives are so vividly established, you can't help but empathize with them.

The director is a first-rate storyteller who manages to engage his viewers' attention even without the usual Hollywood spectacle. There's one thing he can't do, though: Make Tom Cruise look unattractive!

"Sylvia"

D: Christine Jeffs
S: Gwyneth Paltrow

Don't miss this irresistible, cinematic portrait of American feminist poet Sylvia Plath (Paltrow), and her turbulent relationship with her husband, British poet laureate Ted Hughes (Daniel Craig of "The Mother"). It was love at first bite—she bit him on the cheek!—when they met at a Cambridge party.

Ironically, the blood drawn from that fateful nip wasn't going to be the last. The ambitiously brilliant pair lived and breathed their poetry, which mirrored their love, passion, frustrations, sadness, madness and fate.

Searing performances minus the histrionics from the luminous Paltrow (as the depressive Sylvia) and the perfectly cast Craig (as the adulterous Hughes) anchor the glossy production. The cinematic images that Jeffs paints are as rich and lyrical as her troubled heroine, and serve as the perfect canvas for sumptuous servings of Plath's verses.

Ted Hughes declared: "A good poem is a weapon." Unfortunately, for his wife, with her morbid musings about mortality, poetry was also a gloomy foreboding.

At 31, she put her kids to sleep, then shoved her head into the gas oven. She wrote: "Dying is an art. Like anything else, I do it exceptionally well."

Long before that, however, just after meeting Hughes for the first time, her verses were prophetic: "Black marauder. One day, I'll have my death of him!"

"The Village"

D: M. Night Shyamalan
S: Joaquin Phoenix

There's no doubt Shyamalan knows how to establish mood and an atmosphere of dread. His visual eye is as potent here as in his past films. Unfortunately, his story is trite and pretentious, and thus, not as scary as intended.

In his latest thriller, a group of intellectuals, each a victim of the violence of the free world, haul off and isolate their families to a secluded, utopian village, surrounded by a forest that is said to be inhabited by "those we don't speak of."

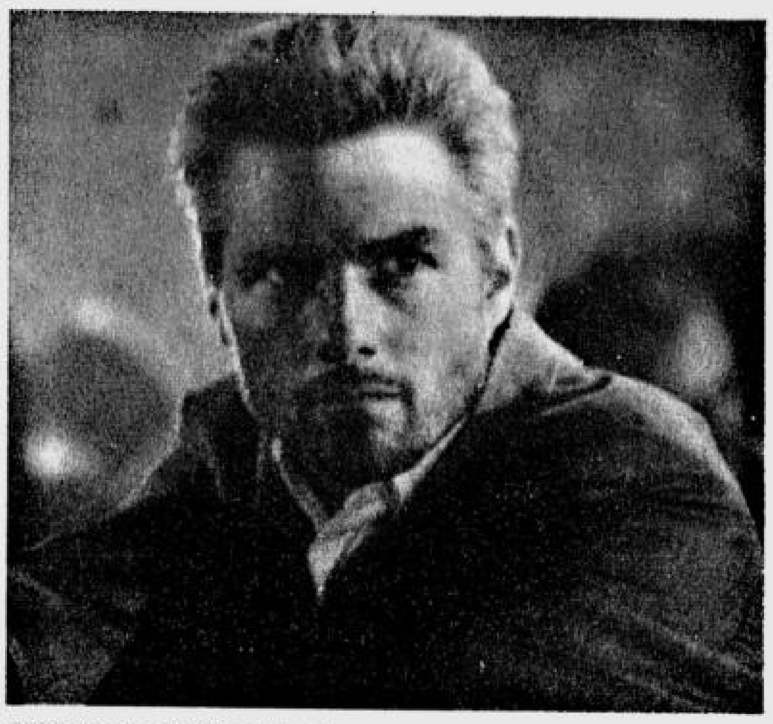
To maintain the order of this peaceful cohabitation, boundaries are set so that both humans and the mythical creatures don't go beyond their turf. But, rules are made to be broken. —And that's when things start to go bump in the night!

"A Cinderella Story"

D: Mark Rosman
S: Hilary Duff

Beautiful orphan, Sam (Duff), wallows in the clutches of her wicked, Botox-loving stepmother and scheming stepsisters. Her only source of inspiration: her secret admirer, text mate and chat buddy—who happens to be the swoon-worthy, sensitive school heartthrob, Austin (Chad Michael Murray).

They decide to finally meet at the Halloween ball! (Although the straight-A, Princeton-bound student must be exceptionally brilliant, because she "chats" with Austin from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.! So, when does she study?) But, does she get her happy ending? One guess.



CRUISE. One of his best performances.

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STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

PSI Asia, The Center For Leadership, is managed by Pilar Quintos-Francisco. Pilar's PSI leadership seminars give young professionals the opportunity to develop a more comprehensive approach to personal and professional success.

The seminar is based on the fundamental principle that every individual possesses unlimited and untapped potential. By unlocking this, a person achieves great results. This will also erase self-limiting beliefs about who we are, and what we can do.

PSI ASIA TEAM. (Standing from left) Karen Medenilla, Pilar Quintos-Francisco (president), Issa Confesor, Clara Laygo, Camille Martinez. (Seated) Mel Pamintuan and Joey Guillermo.

Control

Miriam Quiambao attests: "It helped me recognize that I could take control of my life. If I choose to, I can get whatever I want."

A general manager shares: "A few days of learning can last a lifetime! I learned that it's all about attitude. Suddenly, I decided to be a millionaire!"

On Aug. 22, Sunday, PSI Asia will celebrate its 18th anniversary at the Meralco Foundation in Pasig. It will be a celebration for families of PSI graduates.

There will be games, bazaars, booths, a concert, and surprises. Call Camille Martinez at 813-1188 to 89 to register.

Email mandynavasero@photopro.com.ph or call 899-1767.

Angelica Panganiban . . .

From page F1

movie productions pretty much look and sound alike. Young performers even come off like clones of each other, so genuine star quality, which implies a riveting sense of individuality, is hard to come by.

Individuality

If Angelica succeeds in her new film gambit, she could motivate other young performers to get out of their comfortable but limiting box, and discover their own individuality.

What if they find out they don't have any? Well, they can rejoin show biz's faceless, madding (and maddening) crowd.

But, it's a fair bet that Angelica Panganiban will no longer be there with them, because she's bent on expressing her uniqueness as a performer, and thus making her mark as a young-adult star. —What about you, Camille?

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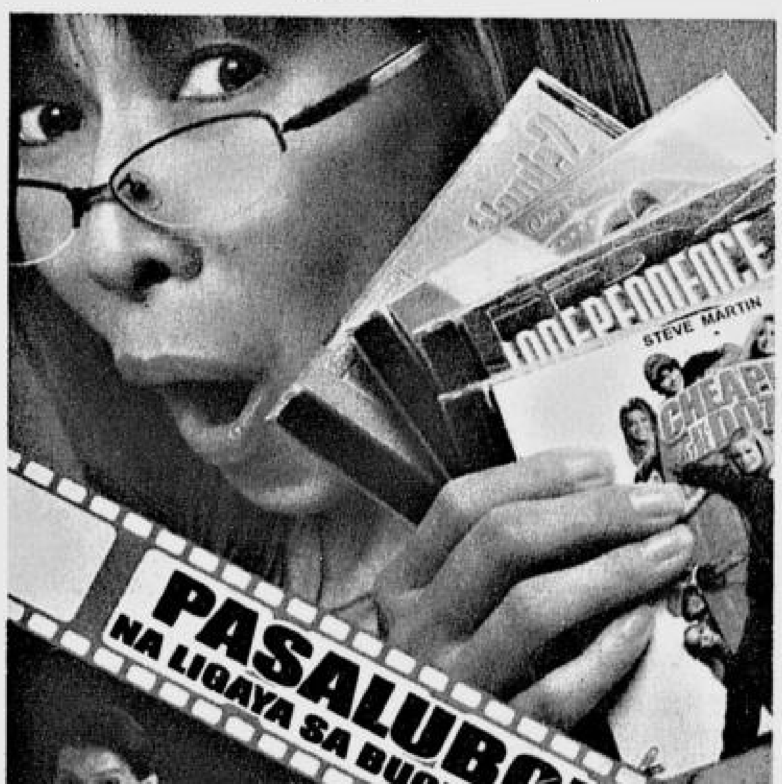

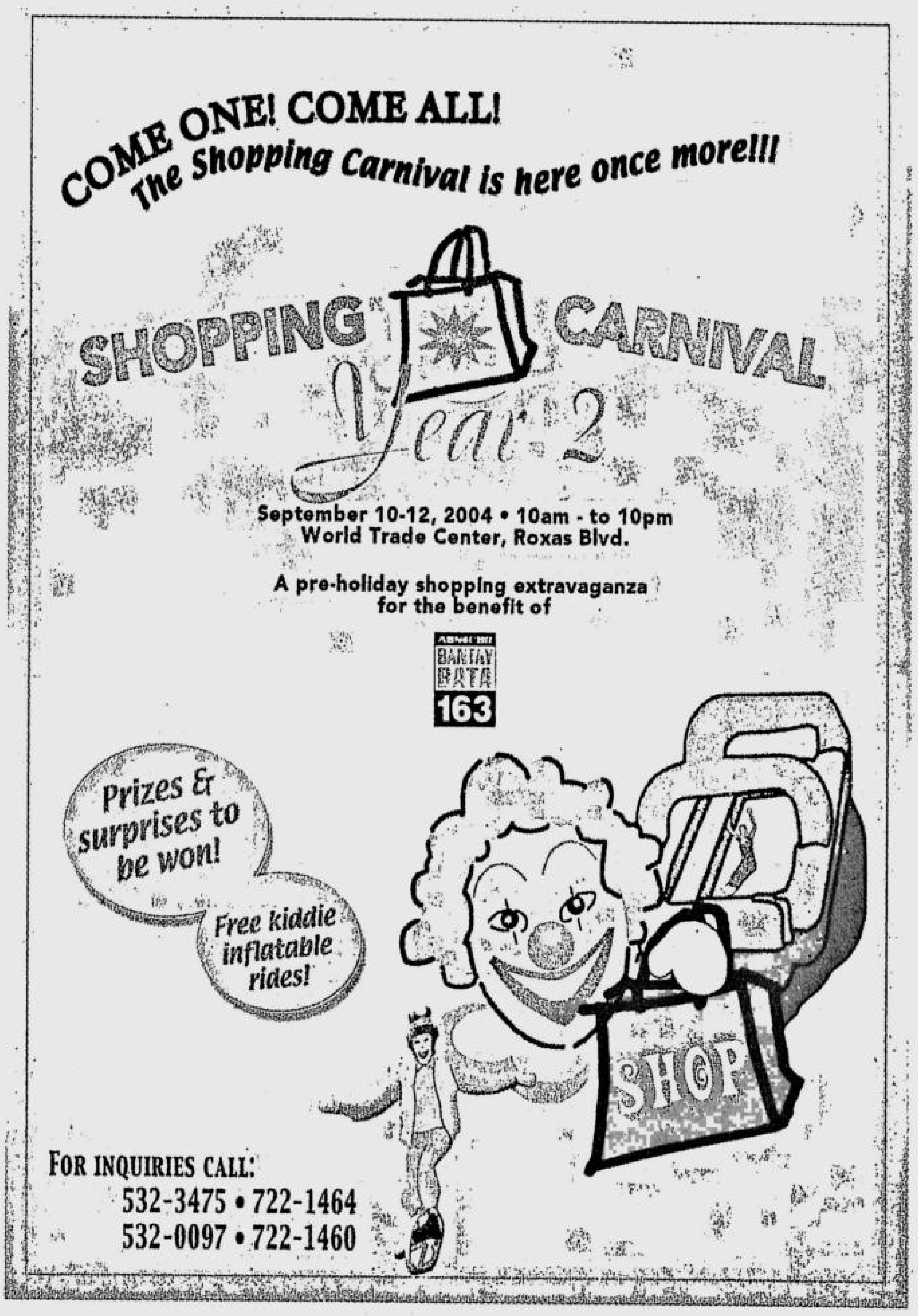
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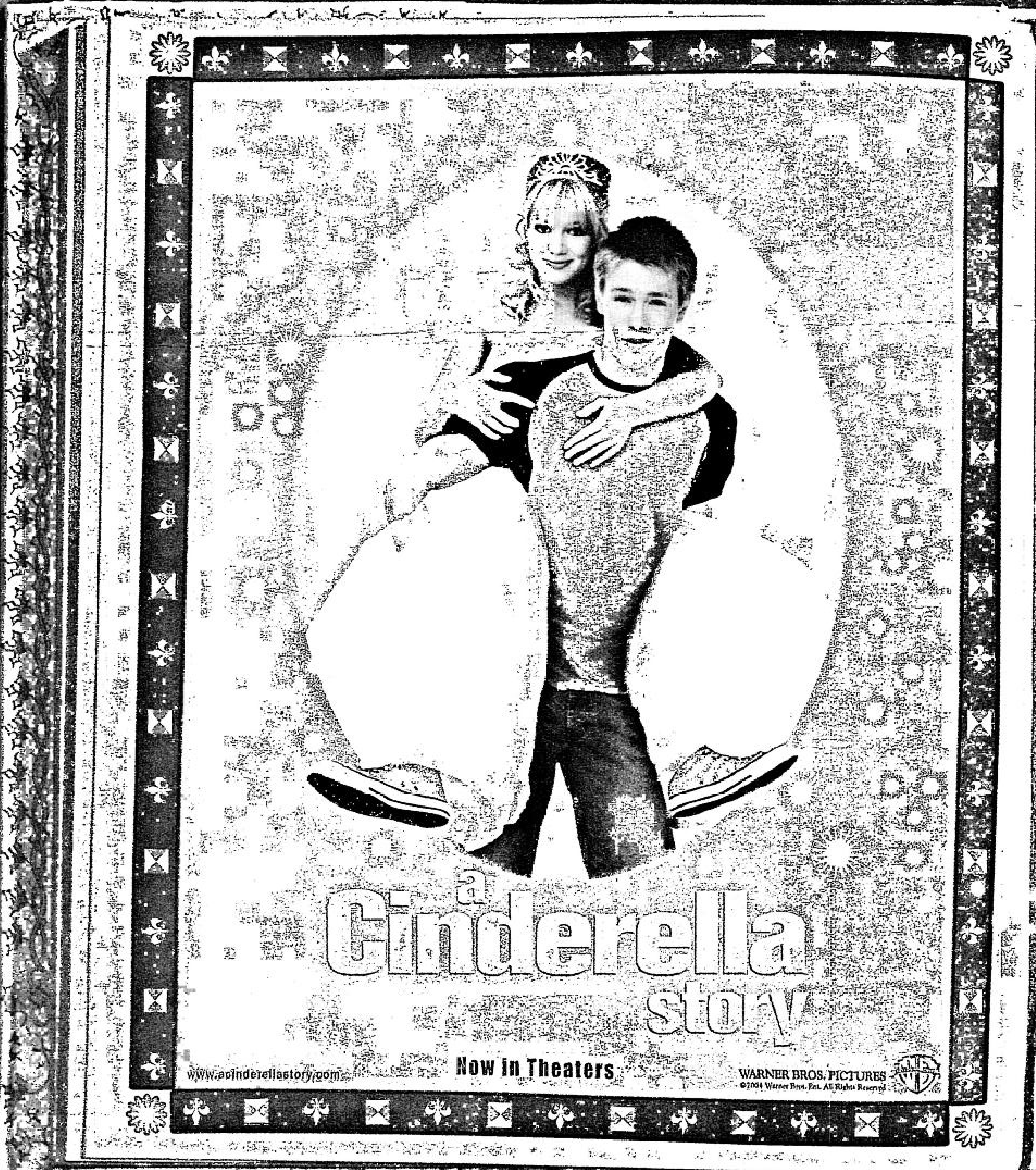

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Anywhere But Here	Hilary Duff	anywerbuthir
Crash World	Hilary Duff	crashworld
One In This World	Haylie Duff	thisworld
Girl Can Rock	Hilary Duff	girlcanrock
To Make You Feel My Love	Josh Kelley	tomakeufeel
Sympathy	Goo Goo Dolls	sympathy
I'll Be	Edwin McCain	illbe
Friend	Kaitlyn	friend
Best Day Of My Life	Jesse McCartney	bestday
Beautiful Soul	Jesse McCartney	bsoul
Fallen	Mya	fallen1

OTHER TONES

SONGTITLE	ARTIST	KEYWORD
Outrageous	Britney Spears	outrageous
Everytime	Britney Spears	everytime
Human Nature	Kyla	humannature
This Love	Maroon 5	thislove
She Will Be Loved	Maroon 5	shewillbloved
I Dont Want You Back	Eamon	dontwantubak
Trick Me	Kelis	trickme
If I Aint Got You	Alicia Keys	aintgotyou
I Think Of You	Tata Young	ithinkofu
My Happy Ending	Avril Lavigne	happyending

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'ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND'

Witty but psychologically twisted

By Noelani Torre

THERE are no sunny days in "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" (Focus Features)—what there are, are gray-tinged skies that belie the vibrancy of the characters who live neurotically beneath them.

This film, mostly shot in winter, is the second collaboration of French director Michel Gondry and zany screenwriter Charlie Kaufman. Their first was the flawed but memorable "Human Nature," and if you've seen that film, with its (literally) covered-in-hair heroine, and Tim Robbins teaching etiquette to mice, then you can hazard a guess as to the style and flavor of "Eternal Sunshine."

WINSLET AND CARREY. Pull off their roles with aplomb.

Like "Human Nature" and the other movies that Kaufman has penned, "Eternal Sunshine" is witty but psychologically twisted.

Once more, we go into a character's head—this time that of the shy Joel Barish (Jim Carrey)—but this move isn't a mere show of cleverness on the filmmakers' part—it's an attempt at articulating the character's turgid emotions.

Memories

Barish has decided to have his memories of charming but infuriating girlfriend Clementine (Kate Winslet) erased when he finds out that she has done the same to him.

In the middle of the procedure, however, when the nastier recollections are over and his sweeter memories are being zapped, the drugged Barish realizes that he doesn't want to lose his memories of her, after all. He's unconscious, however, and the process can't be stopped.

These scenes are the movie's most unforgettable. Here, we see Barish's memories disintegrate—titles fade from book covers, Clementine disappears again and again, a house collapses around them bit by bit, and so on. This makes the sequences surreal, yet alarmingly real.

Barish's urgency keeps everything grounded. Desperate to preserve the memory of Clementine, he spirits her away to the non-Clementine spaces in his mind, like his childhood. She shares a bath in the sink with him, turns into his mother's friend whom he watches from under the kitchen table, and rescues him from playground bullies.

We won't give everything away, but suffice it to say that this isn't the end of Clementine for Joel, and vice versa.

Though we've recounted it as such, the film is no straightforward narrative. It jumps around chronologically and spatially in that familiar mercurial Kaufman style, which gives it a disjointed, sharp-edged quality.

"Eternal Sunshine" is the most grounded Kaufman movie we've seen. The characters' various neuroses and dysfunctional relationships and the production's visual tricks are interesting. But, what really holds the film together is the love story of Joel and Clementine.

Lack of cohesion

Previous Kaufman movies suffered from lack of cohesion—his numerous plots would usually end up tangled, not resolved—but "Eternal Sunshine" manages to gather its many stray parts together to form a satisfyingly unified whole.

It helps a great deal that the two main actors—Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet—pull off their roles with aplomb. We were uncertain about Carrey at first—he has a tendency to bomb out when he's doing serious roles—but this time, he's replaced his hammy earnestness with an understated and vastly more effective touch.

Winslet, on the other hand, has already proven her worth as an actress, and her Clementine is irritating and a little hateful, but undeniably full of life—and easy to fall in love with!

Kirsten Dunst's character, Mary, provides the film with its title when she quotes from 18th-century poet Alexander Pope's "Eloisa to Abelard"—"How happy is the blameless vestal's lot! The world forgetting, by the world forgot. Eternal sunshine of the spotless mind! Each pray'r accepted, and each wish resign'd."

Joel and Clementine prove Pope wrong, however, when they decide that memories, no matter how painful, are better kept rather than erased. And it is through this that they allow warming sunlight into the witty but wintry environs of "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind."

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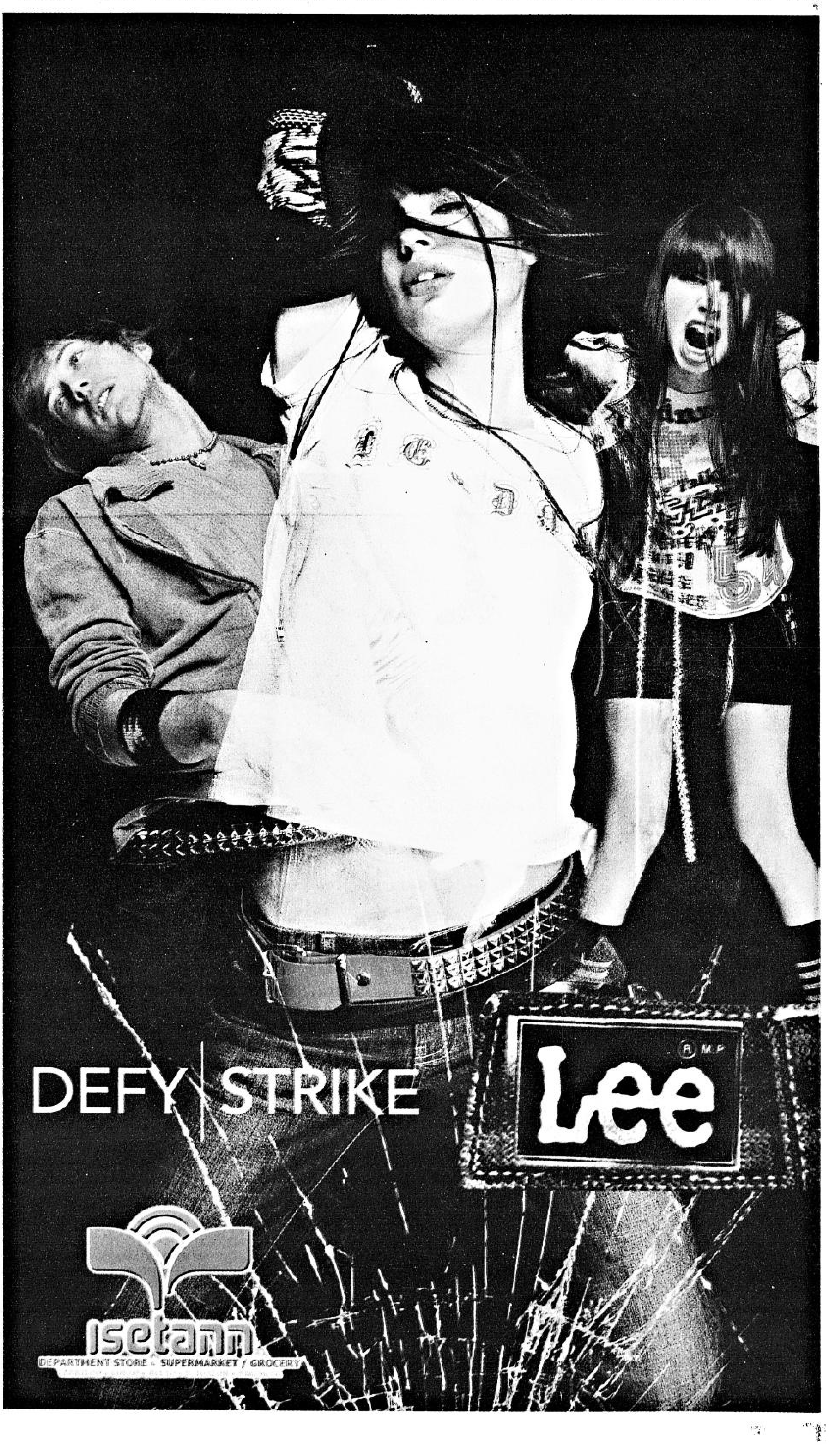

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'ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND'

Witty but psychologically twisted

By Noelani Torre

THERE are no sunny days in "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" (Focus Features)—what there are, are gray-tinged skies that belie the vibrancy of the characters who live neurotically beneath them.

This film, mostly shot in winter, is the second collaboration of French director Michel Gondry and zany screenwriter Charlie Kaufman. Their first was the flawed but memorable "Human Nature," and if you've seen that film, with its (literally) covered-in-hair heroine, and Tim Robbins teaching etiquette to mice, then you can hazard a guess as to the style and flavor of "Eternal Sunshine."

WINSLET AND CARREY. Pull off their roles with aplomb.

Like "Human Nature" and the other movies that Kaufman has penned, "Eternal Sunshine" is witty but psychologically twisted.

Once more, we go into a character's head—this time that of the shy Joel Barish (Jim Carrey)—but this move isn't a mere show of cleverness on the filmmakers' part—it's an attempt at articulating the character's turgid emotions.

Memories

Barish has decided to have his memories of charming but infuriating girlfriend Clementine (Kate Winslet) erased when he finds out that she has done the same to him.

In the middle of the procedure, however, when the nastier recollections are over and his sweeter memories are being zapped, the drugged Barish realizes that he doesn't want to lose his memories of her, after all. He's unconscious, however, and the process can't be stopped.

These scenes are the movie's most unforgettable. Here, we see Barish's memories disintegrate—titles fade from book covers, Clementine disappears again and again, a house collapses around them bit by bit, and so on. This makes the sequences surreal, yet alarmingly real.

Barish's urgency keeps everything grounded. Desperate to preserve the memory of Clementine, he spirits her away to the non-Clementine spaces in his mind, like his childhood. She shares a bath in the sink with him, turns into his mother's friend whom he watches from under the kitchen table, and rescues him from playground bullies.

We won't give everything away, but suffice it to say that this isn't the end of Clementine for Joel, and vice versa.

Though we've recounted it as such, the film is no straightforward narrative. It jumps around chronologically and spatially in that familiar mercurial Kaufman style, which gives it a disjointed, sharp-edged quality.

"Eternal Sunshine" is the most grounded Kaufman movie we've seen. The characters' various neuroses and dysfunctional relationships and the production's visual tricks are interesting. But, what really holds the film together is the love story of Joel and Clementine.

Lack of cohesion

Previous Kaufman movies suffered from lack of cohesion—his numerous plots would usually end up tangled, not resolved—but "Eternal Sunshine" manages to gather its many stray parts together to form a satisfyingly unified whole.

It helps a great deal that the two main actors—Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet—pull off their roles with aplomb. We were uncertain about Carrey at first—he has a tendency to bomb out when he's doing serious roles—but this time, he's replaced his hammy earnestness with an understated and vastly more effective touch.

Winslet, on the other hand, has already proven her worth as an actress, and her Clementine is irritating and a little hateful, but undeniably full of life—and easy to fall in love with!

Kirsten Dunst's character, Mary, provides the film with its title when she quotes from 18th-century poet Alexander Pope's "Eloisa to Abelard"—"How happy is the blameless vestal's lot! The world forgetting, by the world forgot. Eternal sunshine of the spotless mind! Each pray'r accepted, and each wish resign'd."

Joel and Clementine prove Pope wrong, however, when they decide that memories, no matter how painful, are better kept rather than erased. And it is through this that they allow warming sunlight into the witty but wintry environs of "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind."

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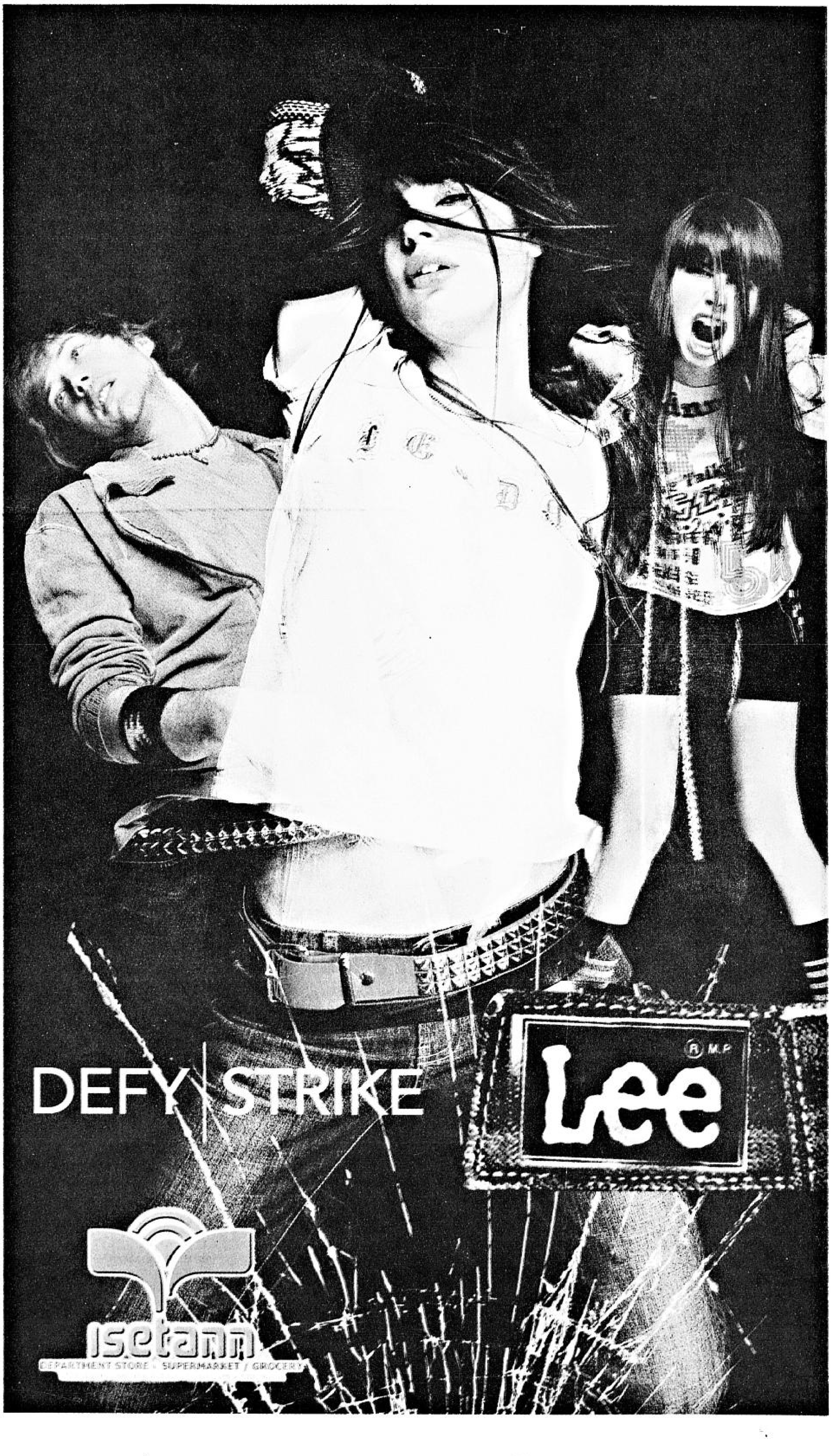

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Crossover to film makes comic strips more popular

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

FROM Magnolia Pagulayan: "I enjoy watching my favorite comic-strip characters like 'Garfield' when they're brought to the big and small screens. Please share trivia about them."

Glad to oblige, Magnolia. Comic strips win more followers when they cross over to films. Trivia about popular comic strips adapted for the screen:

Jim Davis' lazy, cuddly, fat cat, Garfield, was named after Davis' grandfather, James Garfield Davis. The film adaptation, starring Jennifer Love Hewitt and Breckin Meyer (as Jon Arbuckle, owner of Garfield and Odie), is still showing in cinemas here.

PARKER. Portrayed Annie on Broadway.

CULKIN. Played poor, little Richie Rich.

Child superstar

In 1994, the story of poor little rich boy Richie Rich and his dog Dollar was adapted for the big screen by Donald Petrie, topbilling child superstar Macaulay Culkin.

Growing up, we were a big fan of Richie, Little Lotta, Little Dot, Little Audrey, Baby Huey and Casper, the friendly ghost.

So, we were pleased to see Brad Silberling's "Casper" on the big screen. The movie used Malachi Pearson's voice for the animated "ghost," and starred Devon Sawa as the live boy, Casper McFadden, with Christina Ricci as Kat Harvey. It also featured the nasty, ghostly trio: Stretch, Stinky and Fatso.

Ricci also starred as Wednesday in two movies about Charles Addams' morbidly funny "The Addams Family," about the bizarre but likable residents of a Victorian gothic house.

The characters gained immense popularity 70 years ago—in the 1930s! The 1991 and 1993 films that starred Raul Julia and Angelica Huston as Gomez and Morticia Addams, respectively, were preceded by TV serials in the 60s and 70s.

Robin Williams portrayed the spinach-eating "Popeye" opposite Shelley Duvall's Olive Oyl in Robert Altman's 1980 feature film. But, Elzie Crisler Segar's sailor first appeared as a minor character in Segar's 1929 newspaper strip, "Thimble Theater," usually to save protagonist Olive Oyl and her brother, Castor, from Brutus/Bluto. Popeye became so popular that the strip was later renamed after him.

Even the well-loved stage musical, "Annie" (which popularized Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin's song, "Tomorrow"), was based on Harold Gray's comic strip, "Little Orphan Annie."

Adaptation

"Sex and the City's" Sarah Jessica Parker played one of the original Annies during the show's successful 2,377-performance run on Broadway, which opened in 1977. The 1982 film version starred Albert Finney and Carol Burnett, and a made-for-TV adaptation was topbilled by Victor Garber and Kathy Bates.

Chic Young's "Blondie" spawned 28 films between 1938 to 1950.

Warner Brothers' popular cartoons (Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, The Road Runner, Tweety and Sylvester, Elmer Fudd) made big-screen appearances in the Michael Jordan-starrer, "Space Jam," and the recent "Looney Tunes," starring Brendan Fraser.

Malou traces her thespic roots to the stage

By Andy Bais

DUGONG, the hefty sea-witch creature in Channel 2's top-rating *fantaserye*, "Marina," is the most popular villain on TV.

DE GUZMAN AS HERSELF (LEFT) AND DUGONG. Talented but underrated.

Viewers, both young and old, just love her infectious "drool" and her "production number," actually a chant, complete with musical background and special effects.

Malou de Guzman gives life to the popular character. And, thanks to Dugong, the talented but underrated actress has earned much-deserved recognition.

Character recall

Malou has had her share of "character recall." For years, she has been associated with her Lukring character in "Ober Da Bakod"—until Dugong came into people's consciousness.

Playing character roles was never alien to this actress, who got her first acting break in theater. She must have been born to perform, she says. At age three, she was the family's resident entertainer.

"Tuwing closing time *sa* beauty parlor *namin noon, nilalagay ako ng mga* brothers *ko sa* stool *at pinapakanta at pinapasayaw.* Enjoy *naman ako,"* she recalls.

Fast-forward to her college years: she was always in Dulaang UP plays, where she excelled in dramatic roles.

Soon after, Malou spread her acting wings, and went mainstream.

She was a delight in Tony Espejo and Joey Reyes' "Oh I See, Truman Cassidy," where she portrayed all the female characters—mother, teacher and childhood sweetheart to Lou Veloso, who played the lead role.

She counts her roles as Flerida in "Ibong Adarna," Candida in Dulaang UP's "Larawan," Anna Kleiber in the play of the same title, and the *burlesk* dancing girl in "Katy" as her most memorable performances.

Her movie credits are equally impressive: she has been directed by Eddie Romero, Lamberto Avellana, Lino Brocka, Ishmael Bernal, Mike de Leon, Peque Gallaga, Marilou Diaz-Abaya and Mel Chionglo—"*parang* Who's Who of Philippine cinema!," she enthuses.

Best foundation

Malou's exciting acting forays into television and the movies wouldn't have been possible without her 27 years of stage experience: *"Ang pinakamagandang* foundation when it comes to acting is theater. The actor's search for truth, character study and discipline *ay madali kung galing ka sa* theater," she shares.

When not busy with her thrice-a-week tapings, she is at UP teaching students how to act for film and television. She has been teaching for 16 straight years. *"Hindi ko talaga ito binitawan kasi ito ang* reality check *ko para hindi ako maging* show biz," she laughs.

Understanding role of TV news anchors

By Nestor U. Torre

ONE of the popular comedy films showing in the US these days is "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy," with Will Ferrell playing the bumptious, oafish title character to great satirical effect.

Why is the movie so popular? Analysts aver that the main reason is that the TV news anchor has become such a shallow, self-obsessed cliché that he is practically begging to be lampooned.

For every Tom Brokaw who impresses viewers with his insightful interviews and scrupulously objective reading of the news, you have the many slick Stone Phillipses who think that effective news anchoring is simply a matter of looking good and sounding great, with precious little thought and insight invested in the process.

Respect

News anchors on US television are sometimes faulted for being pompous airheads who fake empathy and conviction, and think they can get away with it (they can't). No wonder viewers don't give them the respect they think they deserve (they don't)!

On the local TV scene, the situation is further compromised by some anchors' lack of training in broadcast journalism.

Sure, they're supposed to simply be good news readers most of the time, mouthing reports gathered and written by other, more hands-on reporters, but they should still understand what they're mouthing, right?

Quite often, viewers have to put up with the dismal spectacle of anchors who can't even pronounce the names of newsmakers right.

Often, too, they flub their reports and make embarrassingly unprofessional mistakes because they obviously haven't even bothered to read their news texts before the telecast.

Making sense

Quite a number of local anchors appear to be fixated more on looking good than on making sense. They are so self-obsessed that the news diminishes in importance in relation to their so-called "star" quality.

But, stardom really has no place in news reportage, which should be all about the news, not the news reader—and certainly not the news readers' views, which some misguided anchors try to sneak in every now and then, despite its being a big no-no for broadcast journalists.

They do this not really by ad-libbing their views, but by subjectively *reacting* to the reports they read. If they dislike or distrust the newsmaker, they make *ismid*, raise an eyebrow or speak in a sarcastic manner. —Well, excuse us, but (surprise, surprise) we really aren't interested in your subjective reaction!

Importance

Trouble is, many viewers give news readers more importance than they deserve, so the anchors develop an excessively inflated perception of themselves.

Some really clueless viewers think that the anchors originate the news they report on, which of course is far from the truth.

Due to this shallow misperception, however, impressed (because excessively impressionable) viewers even vote anchors into political office, often with hapless results.

For local news anchors to be pressured to do better and more responsible work, viewers should really educate themselves on how TV newscasts function, who are the people who do the actual work, etc.

From theater to the movies

By Behn Cervantes

COBARRUBIAS. Urian winner.

MICHELENA. Went into directing.

AFTER a four-month incarceration in Camp Crame in 1974, well-meaning friends advised me to stage a "safe" play for the UP Repertory Company.

Somebody suggested Ricaredo Demetillo's Palanca-winning play, "The Heart of Emptiness is Black," and I was immediately taken by the play that revolves around the Panay version of the Camelot love triangle. It was going to be a fine replacement for my seditious "Ibagsak" plays.

Attractive cast

I needed an attractive cast that could also handle Demetillo's poetic language. I held open auditions, although I already asked Winnie Monsod to play Kapinangan, the young bride enamored with Guronggurong, her husband Datu Sumakwel's cousin. The young warrior gives Kapinangan the attention she longed for, while the older chief attended to unprecedented tribal reforms in pre-Spanish Philippines.

I had most of the supporting cast members, but I did not have the actor to portray the virile warrior.

On the last afternoon of the audition, Chat Mariñas prodded a frat brod, Menggie Cobarrubias, to try out. He was physically right for the demanding role, but he had to improve his diction.

Since I was wont to double-cast to give more students acting experience, I chanced upon a good-looking student who looked like a Greek macho.

Without hesitation

I pushed Emma Valeros (now Cruz) to ask him if he was interested to appear in the play. Since he said yes without hesitation, I knew this was a no-nonsense guy. Now, I had Cris Michelena and Menggie alternating in the Guronggurong role.

Menggie has a deep voice, so he complemented Winnie's husky voice. Cris, on the other hand, had a high-pitched voice, so Winnie, in good humor, warned me that the audience could well be confused about who was Kapinangan and who was Guronggurong.

Of course, Winnie, being a faculty member was *Tita* Winnie to her theatrical paramours.

However, since she is a fine actress and a dedicated professional, she paced her leading men, including chunky Teddy Henares who portrayed Sumakwel.

Menggie and Cris initially had problems, but both worked hard to perform satisfactorily. The two quickly became regular performers in UP Rep productions.

Spoiled son

When I directed the film, "Sakada," in 1975, I cast Menggie as the underground union organizer, and Cris as the spoiled son of *hacienderos* Pancho Magalona and Gloria Romero. Cris also played the lover of the lovely Hilda Koronel.

Menggie, on the other hand, shared scenes with Robert Arevalo and Rosa Rosal. Formidable company for tyros, but the young actors faced the challenge with relish, and learned from the experience. They had the fine ability to laugh at themselves, so I knew that they would survive the competitive field if they chose to dedicate their lives to acting.

Menggie was quickly noticed by other directors like Ishmael Bernal and Lino Brocka. For Lino, he portrayed the heavy in Pete Lacaba's "Jaguar," and won the Urian best supporting actor statuette for his fine depiction in the film that eventually ended up at Cannes in 1979.

More stable

However, he gave up acting for a spell to concentrate on earning a more stable income, but after many years of denial, Menggie decided that acting was in his system. He now acts regularly in films and television soaps.

Cris became busy as a stage actor. In time, he branched out to advertising before he tried directing films. He married talented stage actress Tess Dumpit, a UP Rep alumna I likewise remember with great pleasure and affection.

PITT. Plays Achilles in Wolfgang Petersen's "Troy."

CHRISTINE Carlos (center) with the Diamond Hotel Sky Lounge's musicians.

Films on video

MONTAGE

WARNER Home Video has already sold 17,000 units of the Tom Cruise starrer, "The Last Samurai," on DVD since May this year. Other relatively recent movies now on video are:

"Troy," the legendary adventure which chronicles the passion of two legendary lovers, Prince Paris and the Queen of Sparta, which ignited the Trojan War. Stars include Brad Pitt, Orlando Bloom, Eric Bana and Diane Kruger.

"Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," where Harry, Hermione and Ron are forced to confront their darkest fears as they have to contend with an escaped prisoner who poses a great threat to Harry, and with the frightening Dementors who are supposed to protect them.

"Taking Lives," with Angelina Jolie playing an FBI profiler who is tasked to solve a ritualistic murder case, but unexpectedly goes on to discover a series of similar murders leading back to the '80s.

"The Name of the Rose," starring Sean Connery and Christian Slater in a compelling adaptation of Umberto Eco's bestseller.

Christine Carlos at Diamond Hotel

Groove to the latin and jazz rhythms of "Suave Rotina" with sultry Christine Carlos as lead female vocalist every Saturday from 8;30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Diamond Hotel's Sky Lounge (Roxas blvd.)

'Maid in Manhattan'

Jennifer Lopez' hit starrer, "Maid in Manhattan," will be shown on HBO at 9 p.m. on Aug. 14. Lopez plays a hotel chambermaid who is pursued by a US senatorial candidate (Ralph Fiennes).

Star Idol semi-finalist

Maribeth Arellano, a 16-year-old Batangueña, is the seventh semi-finalist in the Star Idol Search of the Starmall chain. Runners-up Angelo Ricablanca and Khris Roldan will have another chance to join the semi-finals in the last wildcard round which will be held on Aug. 14 at Starmall-Las Piñas.

The semi-finals are on Aug. 29 and Sept. 4. The Grand Finals are set for Sept. 19 at Metropolis Mall Alabang. Call 724-4992.

Cine Europa

Cine Europa 2004 will unreel on Sept. 2 at 6:30 p.m. at The Podium for the opening ceremonies, and simultaneously at SM Megamall for the regular screenings. Call 727-1961.

Cine Europa, organized by the member nations of the European Union, is the Philippines' largest showcase of the best contemporary European films.

'Batman Begins' trailer

The teaser trailer of "Batman Begins,"

FILMS/G3

CAST of "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban": Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe and Rupert Grint.

Knack for harmony boosts Ash's 'Meltdown'

By Nelani Torre

WHEELER. Fares better as songwriter than vocalist.

AFTER Ash's light pop album, "Free All Angels," hit the streets in 2001, we thought that the band had finally sold out to the corporate music machine that they were once bent on resisting. Though "Angels" spawned five hit singles, and the album itself climbed to No. 1, the sound had become so mainstream that we really couldn't blame critics for speculating negatively about Ash's future.

Quartet

With new album "Meltdown," the quartet is vehemently telling us that gum and pink are so not Ash. What they are, if their cover art is to be believed, are embossed phoenix tattoos rising from photoshopped flames.

Clichéd artwork aside, "Meltdown" pays homage to '70s and '80s rock, with its arena-sized sound and big explosive riffs. The guys from Ash are ready to rock again. The pop influence is still strong, but this time, it adds, not detracts, to the general kick-ass feel of the album.

The presence of Foo Fighters and System of a Down producer Nick Raskulinecz has contributed to this revival of Ash's earlier, more rocking style. "Angels" was likable enough, but its radio-friendliness couldn't make up for its gratingly sissified quality.

"Meltdown," on the other hand, has a lot of serious rocking that gives its catchy pop melodies the solid foundation that saves them from becoming wimpy.

Darker flavor

This time, there's also a darker, more grown-up flavor. Now in their late 20s, the band members have been in the business for 10 years, and have gone way beyond their wild 18-year-old personas.

They still lead the traditional rock-star lifestyle, but it hasn't killed them yet, so we suppose they've been practicing self-control.

Lead vocalist and guitarist Tim Wheeler is the man at the helm of this venture. He wrote the songs, sharing songwriting credit with other band members — guitarist Charlotte Hatherley and bassist Mark Hamilton — only in "Meltdown" and "Out of the Blue." The fourth member is drummer Rick McMurray.

Wheeler fares better as songwriter than vocalist, however. There's nothing wrong with his voice *per se.* It has a smooth but fragile quality that lends itself to vulnerability. What it doesn't have is the necessary oomph for the all-out headbanging that some of the songs require.

Chorus

This is immediately obvious in the driving album opener, "Meltdown." The song begins with ready to rock drums, bass and guitars, but when Wheeler starts singing, his voice drags everything down. The made-for-singing-along chorus ("I think my head, my head is gonna explode") would have kicked ass bigtime if the singer had a grittier voice.

We can't fault the efforts of the rest of the band, however. They have a confident touch on their instruments that we haven't heard in their earlier work.

Wheeler redeems himself in songs like "Starcrossed," a sweet, modernized Romeo-and-Juliet ballad. When he sings: "You know that I'd die for you," you can hear conviction.

"Orpheus" is another song where the vocals don't let us down. Wheeler's singing is almost luminous here, and his harmonies blend and contrast with the straightforward rocking of the rest of the band.

All in all, it's hard not to like "Meltdown." It may not be great art, but we can't deny Ash's craftsmanship. They have an ear for harmonizing, and it never lets them down, even when they're at their weakest.

Films on video

From page G2

ARELLANO. Seventh semi-finalist.

Warner Bros.' much-anticipated release for 2005, will be shown on local screens starting Aug. 18, as an added attraction to the sci-fi thriller, "Alien vs. Predator."

"Batman Begins" charts the origins of the Batman legend, with Christian Bale playing Bruce Wayne/ Batman, Michael Caine as his trusted butler Alfred, and Gary Oldman as detective James Gordon.

Movies on TV

On HBO, Aug. 14 at 10:45 p.m., "Catch Me If You Can." Aug. 15 at 1:45 p.m., "The Laramie Project." Aug. 16 at 10:30 p.m., "A Beautiful Mind." Aug. 17 at 10 p.m., "Sex and the City" Season 6 premiere. Aug. 18 at 6 a.m., "Lone Star State of Mind." Aug. 19 at 7:10 p.m., "Blood Work." Aug. 20 at 5:30 p.m., "Blues Brothers."

On Cinemax, Aug. 14 at 11:30 a.m., "Hitler and I: Reflections on Evil." Aug. 15 9:15 a.m., "The Butcher's Wife." Aug. 16 at 11 p.m., "Altered States." Aug. 17 at 9 p.m., "In Pursuit of Honor." Aug. 18 at 6 p.m., "Sherlock." Aug. 19 at 2 p.m., "Marjorie Morningstar." Aug. 20 at 6 a.m., "Hitler: The Rise of Evil."

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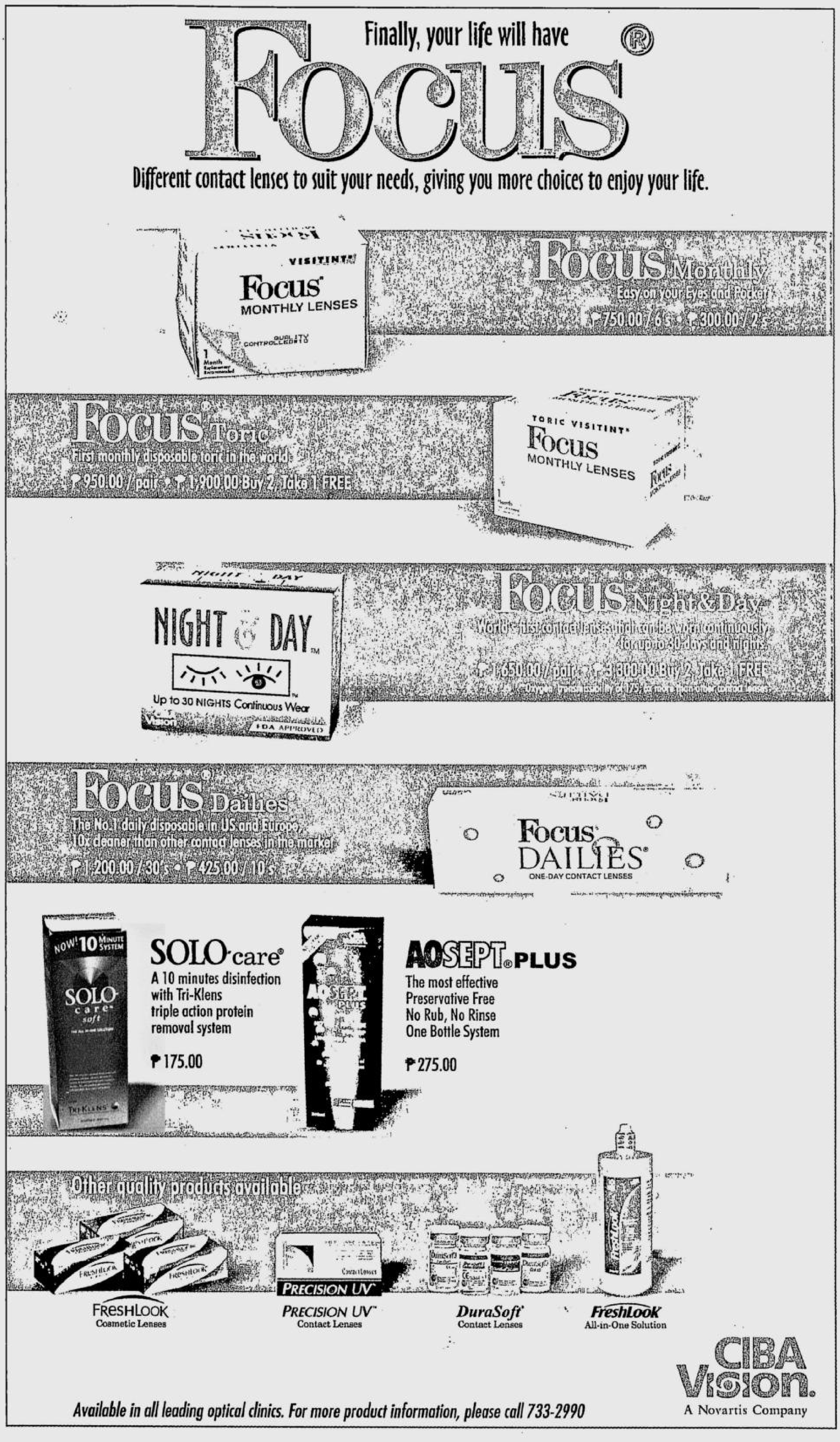

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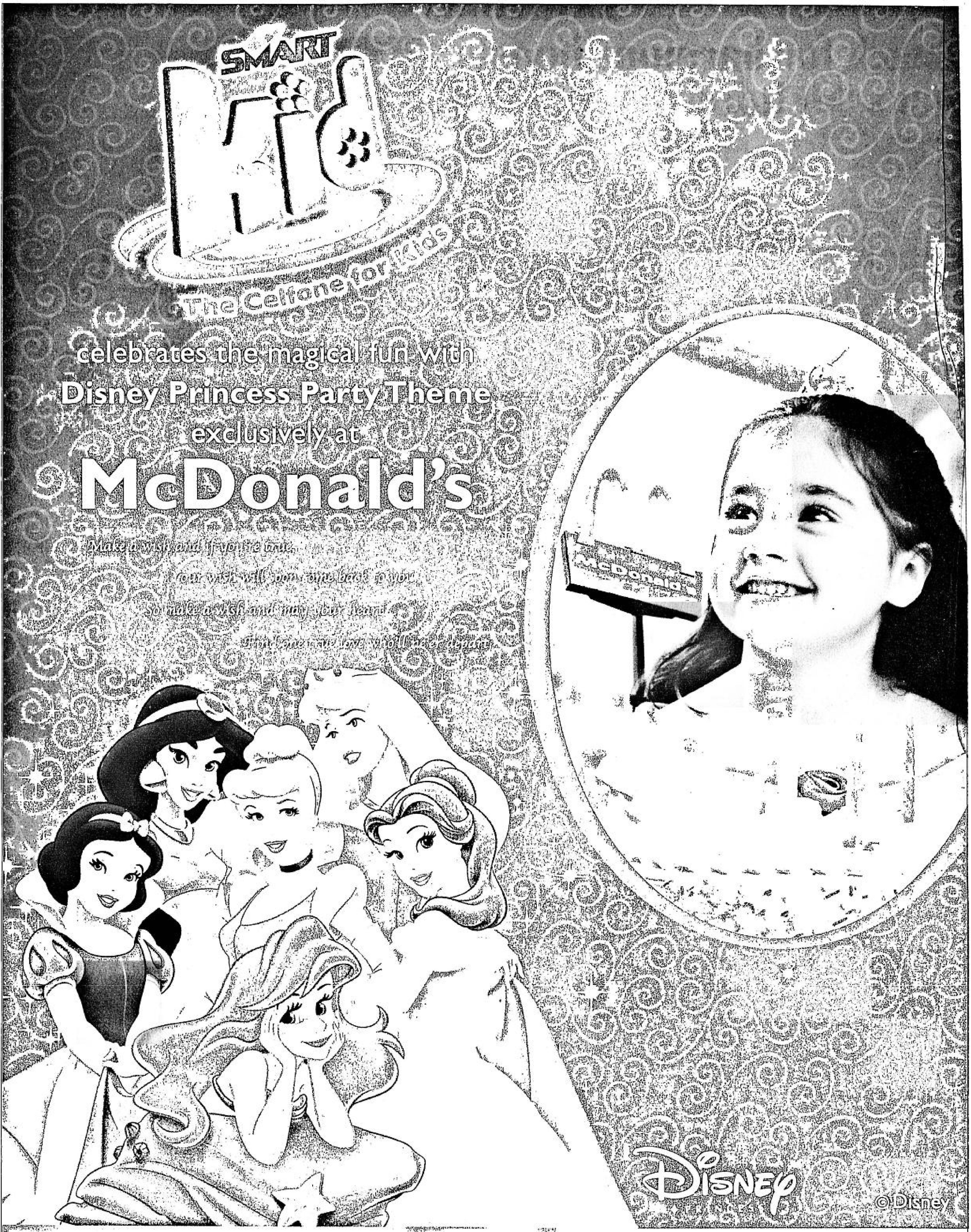

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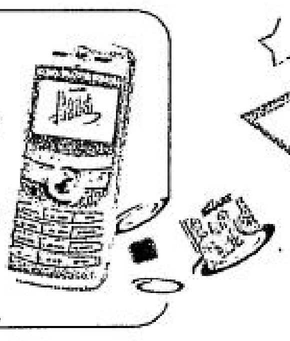

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1457 Series of 2004

To get Disney Princess downloads, just type PRINCESS and send to 238

SMART Kid Mall Blitz Schedules:

Fridays to Sundays starting August 6 - 29
at the following malls:

- Alabang Town Center
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See posters and leaflets for more details. Promo duration: Aug. 6 - 31, 2004. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1457, Series of 2004.

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SATURDAY Super

Text Feedback: inquirer sup name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph

Tim Tayag's Foot Fetish page I1

The 'Hooba-lallu' over Hoobastank page H4

Deep throat action with Akafellas page J2

Girls who look Better than Bare page K2

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography: STEVE TIRONA
Assistant: Marcus Maguigad
Fashion: MIMI and JULIET TAN
Cover Star: 'BETTER THAN BARE' GIRLS

Amidst the frenzy of our fast paced world where we assume multiple roles and responsibilities, the need to achieve the right balance has never been more necessary. Some people are better than others at being able to step back and take time out from this hurried world. A young man leisurely strumming his guitar, an Expat Pinoy reading his daughter's engaging letter from hundreds of miles away, a mother bathing her one-year old baby, and a business executive enjoying an exhilarating basketball game on TV. They are people who definitely know how to make the most of their time. One of the secrets to their well balanced lives is BPI Express World where financial and banking activities can be done at their convenience. This admirable set shares how you too can step back and find the time to relish the finer things in life.

Young man finding harmony in work and music

Sandwich band member Diego Castillo enjoys music and BPI Express World. "It's easy to be with BPI Express World because I can go about my banking needs through cashless transactions at my convenience," says Diego.

Expat's family discovers benefits of virtual banking

Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) Rafael Santos has peace in his heart knowing that his two children receive his remittance on time through BPI Direct. Rafael's 22 year-old daughter, Ranica attests, "My dad is happy that as he transfers funds from his BPI Direct account to mine, I can withdraw it from any BPI Express Teller Machine in real time," she said.

Look who's living in

BPI EXPRESS WORLD

With a BPI Express Teller Card, one can go about convenient and cashless shopping with its Express Payment System (EPS). Bills are never a headache with online payment through Express Teller Machines found in many corners within the metropolis, Express Phone using your landline phones, Express Connect with mobile banking and Express Online using the internet.

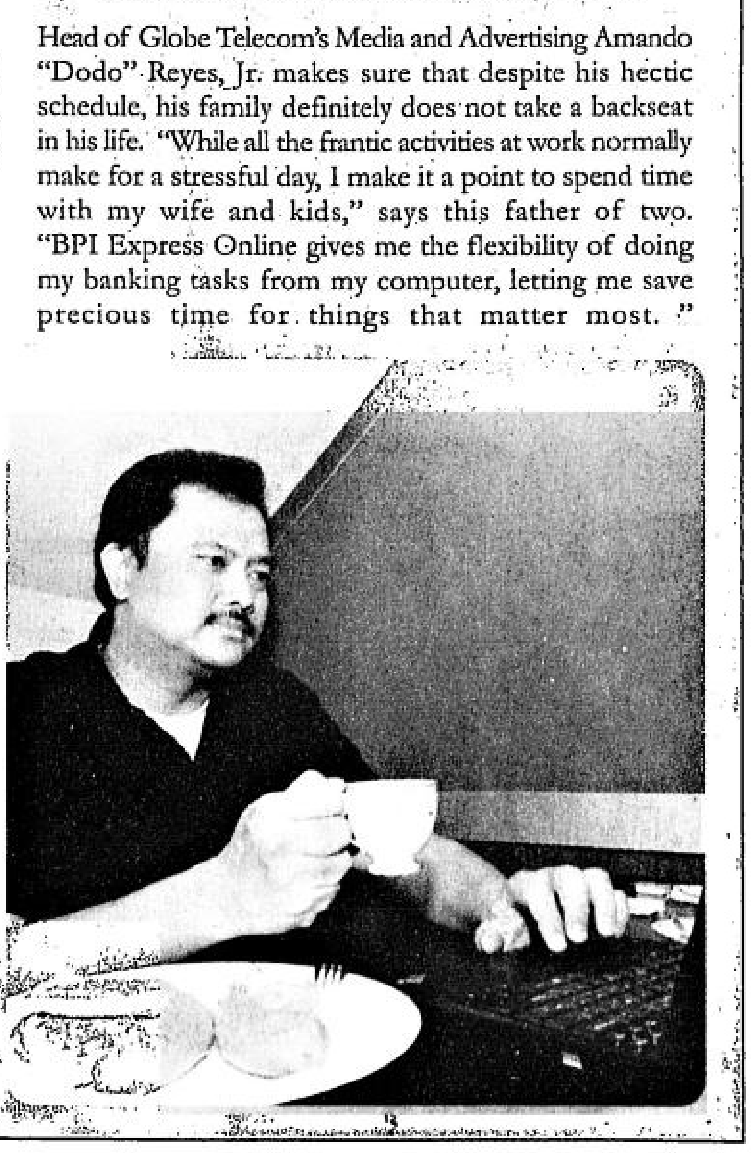
There are more people like them who have to perform many roles at home and at work. But these people have found the wonderful benefits of living in an Express World. With BPI Express World, you can be just like Diego, Dodo, Rafael and Venisse who are successful in their chosen field and yet still find time to sit back and enjoy what truly matters in this life. Log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com or get connected through Express Phone 89-100 or Express Connect (mobile banking facility) so that you too can stop and smell the roses.

A charmed life for fashionable mom

Venisse Laurel-Hermano of Rajo Laurel Enterprises and the new House of Laurel understands the importance of balancing work and family. "I count on BPI Express Online's scheduled payments facility to make sure that my household and personal bills are paid on the appointed date," she remarked.

Telco exec works to live, not lives to work

Head of Globe Telecom's Media and Advertising Amando "Dodo" Reyes, Jr. makes sure that despite his hectic schedule, his family definitely does not take a backseat in his life. "While all the frantic activities at work normally make for a stressful day, I make it a point to spend time with my wife and kids," says this father of two. "BPI Express Online gives me the flexibility of doing my banking tasks from my computer, letting me save precious time for things that matter most."



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SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY Super

H1

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph

Text Feedback: Inquirer sup name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

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PRETTY WOMAN. Lucy Torres-Gomez looking fit and fab. Watch out for her at the Bench Understatement show

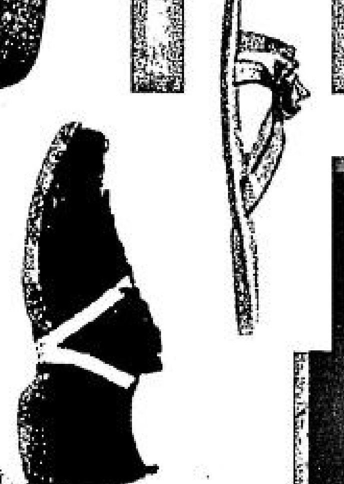
PRETTY FACE. Amanda Griffin's fresh gaze

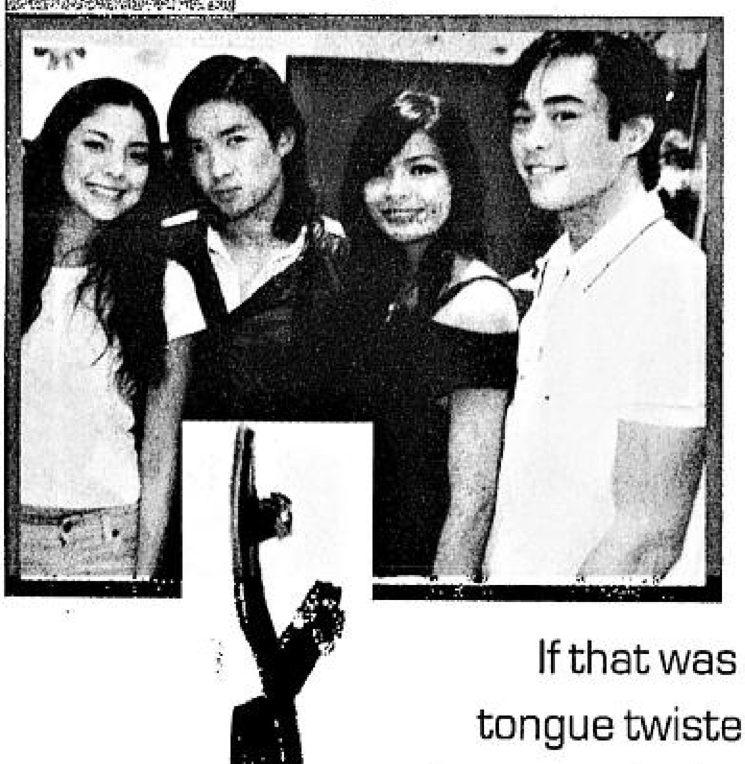
PRETTY FIT! Just Shop/Jenni Epperson!

PRETTY LADY. Rissa Samson's bedimpled smile

BUTTERFLIES ALL OVER. Tess Prieto-Valdes in a Rajo Laurel!

Pretty fit for pretty feet





PRETTY POSSE. Amanda Griffin, Tim Yap, Rissa Samson and Brent Javier

If that was a tongue twister, try squeezing into the throng of excited females in 'panic buy' mode over the latest shoe shop to hit our shores

Photos by Eddie Boy Escudero

Tim Yap

FROM our fashion-forward Singaporean siblings, Pretty Fit (for stylish gals) and Beetle Bug (for sassy guys) has opened its flagship store in the Philippines at Ayala Center's Glorietta 3.

Coming from the Tower Records entrance, I stormed through a barrage of clothing and bookstores at the ground floor. I turned right and proceeded till I found the space—right beside the Dockers store, and filled with painted butterflies and pastel hues that invited me to enter shoe heaven.

Once in, I was intoxicated by the smell of fresh ... leather (a secret fetish)! Good thing I spotted (but how can anyone miss her?) my partner in "time" Tessa Prieto-Valdes, who was in a fuchsia Rajo Laurel number with butterflies in—and on—her stomach, among other places. She was having an animated tete-a-tete with Pretty Fit pals Linda Tan and Jennie Marcelo Chua, beauties behind the brand. Either that, or she was asking for a discount, though I doubt it.

After the short ribbon-cutting ceremony, I chatted with Lucy Torres-Gomez, who willingly missed her belly dance class to check out Pretty Fit. I must say she's looking super svelte. "Dr. Atkins," she whispered as she went through the colorful and vibrant collection.

Style-setting muses Rissa Samson and Amanda Griffin were both eyeing a diamond-studded pair. It looked a little too Manolo—but for that price, why not? In the end it was snapped up by INQUIRER Just Shop's Jenni Epperson. Leica Carpo and the whole Rufino clan (at least the ladies) were present, carting away at least 20 pairs. Talk about Imelda fans.

On the shelves was displayed a super eclectic collection—Pretty Fits good enough to eat. Could it be the next Go Nuts Donuts? Breadtalk? Well, at least with this one, you won't gain a pound. Live music by DJ Cyril of Electronica Manila added to the frenzy of the foot fetishists that Wednesday evening.

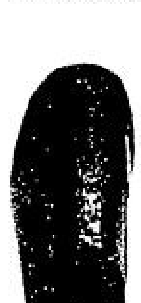
There were men at the opening, too. Pond's boy Brent Javier was hanging out by the Beetle Bug counter, as was Illac Diaz, who got two pairs in a whiff.

Most of the other men didn't even want to compete with the women, who were battling it out, to put it mildly. "The more's the merrier" seemed to be the sentiment inside the store. "We will come back when the coast is clear," I overheard one of the gentlemen whisper to his shopping buddy.

He should foot, I meant put, his money where his mouth is.

TUTTI FRUITY. Astrud Crisologo's penchant for happy colors

PRETTY PARTYPHILES. Bea Locsin and Xeng Zulueta, the prettiest makeup artist in town



PRETTY mother and daughter tandem Anna Escalona and Lilo Gutierrez

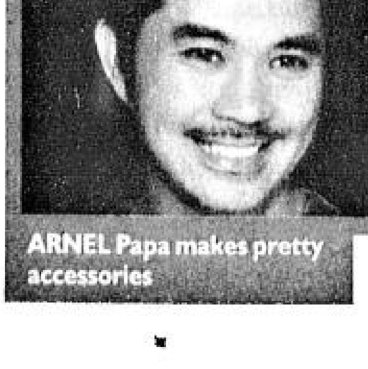
24K. Kat Cruz, shopping princess

THE BEETLE AMONG THE BUGS. Swiss-Portuguese model Alex Montes

PRETTY GOOD DJ. Cyril of Electronica Manila

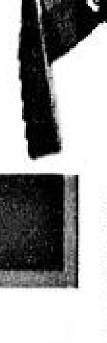
PRETTY voice on the radio, DJ Miles of TM

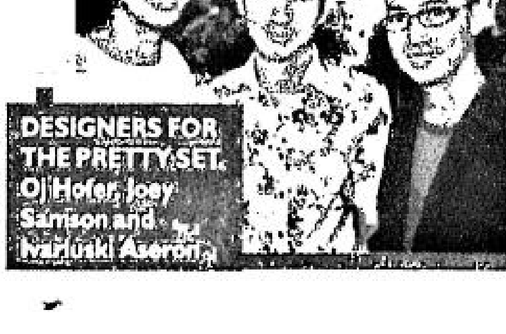
PRETTY FIT FOR A PREGNANT WOMAN. Jackie and hubby chef Rolly Laudico



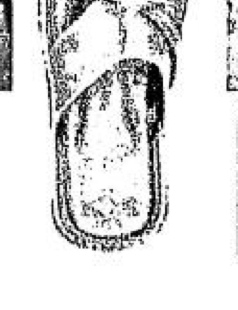
ARNEL Papa makes pretty accessories

STARTING them pretty early





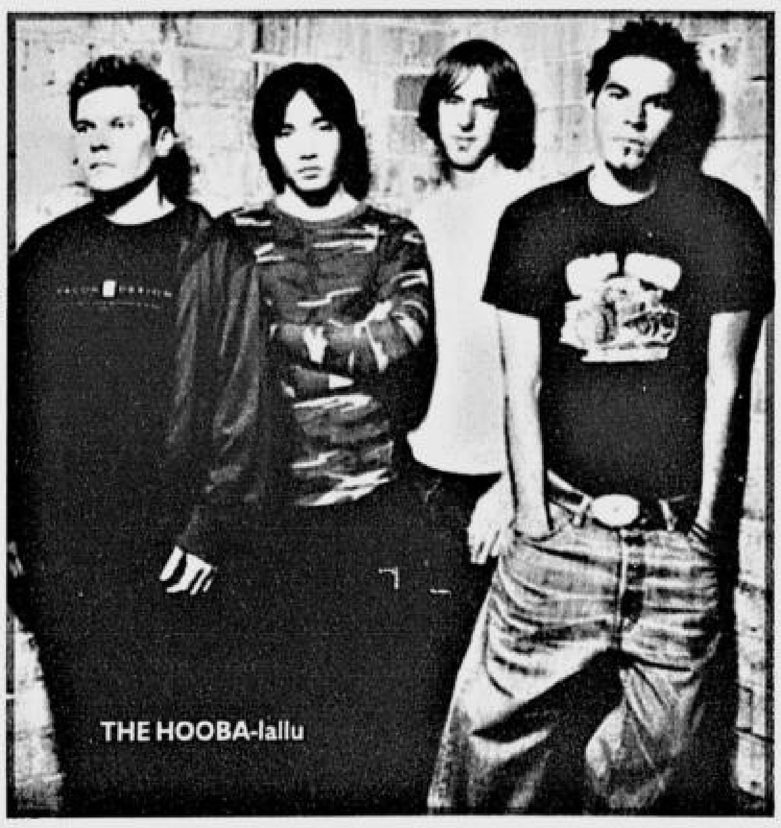
DESIGNERS FOR THE PRETTY SET. Oj Hofer, Joey Samson and Ivarluski Aseron



SHOE SHOPPERS Leica Carpo and Tessa Valdes flank Jennie Chua and Linda Tan of Pretty Fit during their store opening

bench/
To say this show will sizzle would be an
UNDERSTATEMENT
The Bench Underwear & Denim Fashion Show
with the Japanese (Tokyo Dageki-Dan) Taiko Drummers and the French Les Farfadais Acrobats.
[illegible]
FEATURING: Richard Gomez, Lucy Torres-Gomez, Jomari Yllana, Diether Ocampo, [illegible] ne Hermo
Richard Gutierrez, Wendell Ramos, Marc Nelson, [illegible] ndra da
Prats, [illegible] Castillo, [illegible] Agustin, [illegible] ananqui
Juliana Palermo, [illegible] rvo and
www.benchtm.com

What's the hooba-lallu?


THE HOOBA-lallu

Lemon-aide

Giselle Segovia

THE BAND practically sealed their rock-star destiny on the first line of their song "The Reason." Let me ask you, which human being cannot possibly relate to the words (sung in the most forlorn manner), "I'm not a perfect person…?" Any male, female or gay character must categorically feel a certain eponym with it. Nobody's as pristine as the morning sky. And with the ajring of their surefire hit, the rest was history.

Strangely enough, this is not my favorite track of all of Hoobastank's songs. I don't plan on spilling which one I prefer the most either—in the bizarre hope that I'd be the only person singing with them if they perform it in their concert. Haha. Also, it's not being played on the radio and I rather like the idea of keeping it that way.

On Tuesday, Aug. 17, Filipinos can finally watch Hoobastank live. Doug Robb, Markku Lappalainen, Chris Hesse and Dan Estrin do not claim that they are perfect, but their music almost is.

Saturday, August 14

Regular staging starts for "Ang Romansa ni Magno Rubio," presented by Tanghalang Pilipino. This tale, which is set in the 1930s, tells the story of an illiterate Filipino farmer who falls in love with an American woman through continuous correspondence by means of snail mail—yes, as in pen pal. Very retro. Directed by New York-based artist Loy Arcenas, the show will run until the 29th of this month at the CCP Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino. For inquiries about the schedule, call 8323661 or 8311125, local 1620 or 1621.

BBC'S MC and DJ Jojo Flores

THERAPY'S Main Man

Sunday, August 15

M. Night Shyamalan's "The Village" will finally haunt cinemas everywhere. This master of fright cooked up something spooky for sure, with Joaquin Phoenix and his hooded cloak. Have you noticed he likes using the same actors and actresses in his screenplays? He's like Jerry Bruckheimer—they've both got favorites they employ over and over again. Anyway, this one shows enough potential. Wonder if he will make a cameo again. Hmmm.

Monday, August 16

Check out "Numerus," Bobby Nuestro's most recent solo exhibit, available for viewing at the Drawing Room. The title of the show is Latin for "numbers." The venue is located at the ground floor of the Metrostar Bldg., 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City.

Tuesday, August 17

Have a heart—here's your chance to show the world you give a … umm, a flying fig. At 6:30 on this night, you are invited to watch "Sandalwood," a concert that aims to spread a message of hope. This concert, which will feature the infinite talents of Joey Albert, Cocoy Laurel and Assumptionistas Cicy Campbell, Loudette Banson, and Marilen Reambillo will officially launch the CD "Sandalwood." All proceeds of the concert and the sales of the CD will benefit Chosen Children, Tahanang Walang Hagdanan and Assumption Bukidnon. For more information, log on to sandal-wood.net or call 09217367500. After the show, you can party hard at the Hoobastank concert.

By the way, did you know that Doug Robb, Hoobastank's vocalist, plays golf? Surprising, isn't it? I'm curious about what purists of rock would say to that. I think it's cool—in a breaking-boundaries sort of way. Anyway, they are going to be at the Folk Arts Theater on this night and they will drive their fans crazy, for sure. It's going to be a double treat for the audience because Rivermaya will be the front act for the concert. For tickets, call Ticketworld at 891-9999.

Wednesday, August 18

Sneak a peek at the Bench Underwear and Denim Fashion Show. If you've never been to one, brace yourself for a truly extraordinary demonstration of beautiful underwear on equally beautiful bodies. "Understatement" sounds like the complete opposite of the word, particularly with the contribution of the Jap (Tokyo Dageki-Dan) Taiko Drummers and the French Le Farfadais Acrobats. 7 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum, see posters for details.

Thursday, August 19

Internationally acclaimed stage actress Lea Salonga will take the lead role in Atlantis Productions' "Baby." The David Shire musical celebrates the outfit's fifth anniversary and will also feature the talents of Richard Maltby Jr. On its second run on this day, it can be viewed daily except on Mondays until the 5th of September, at the Meralco Theater.

Friday, August 20

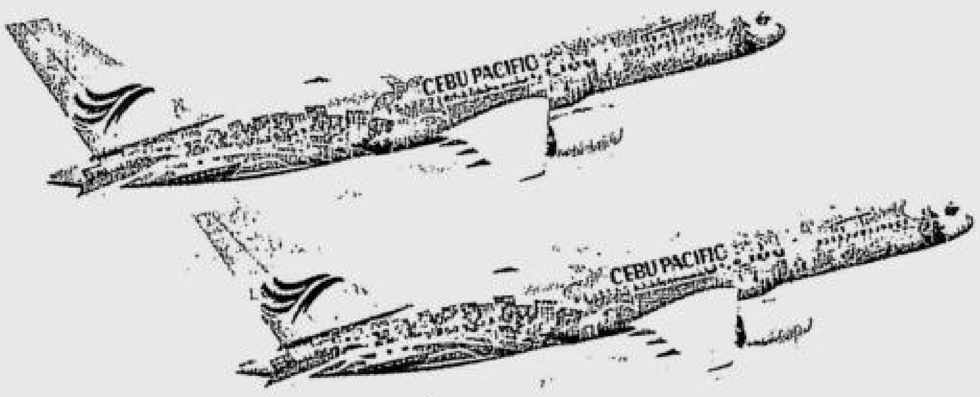
"Get treated to the most beautiful house music you will ever hear," is the promise that BBC declares for music followers this Friday night at Capone's. The list of the deck-magicians cannot possibly disappoint: Mon Maramba, Edge Pamute, Benjo Marquez, H-Bomb, Caliph 8 and—drumroll please!—the world-renowned Fil-Canadian DJ Jojo Flores (www.jojoflores.com), the man who led the multi-awarded "Therapy" into flourishing to become one of the most esteemed names in global dance. Get ready for tasteful, soulful house music. Capone's is at Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City.

The word for the bored:

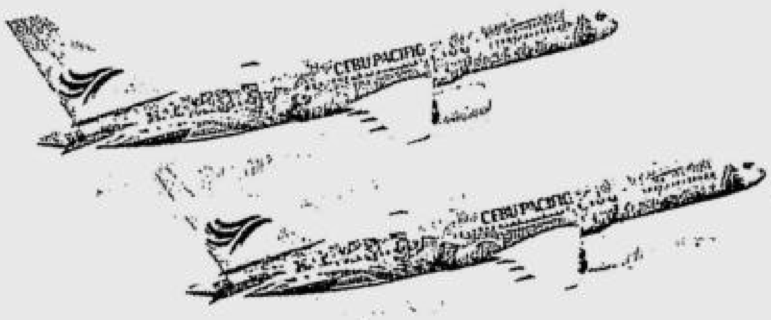
"He's cute!"

–Britney Spears, after first clapping eyes on Kevin Federline.

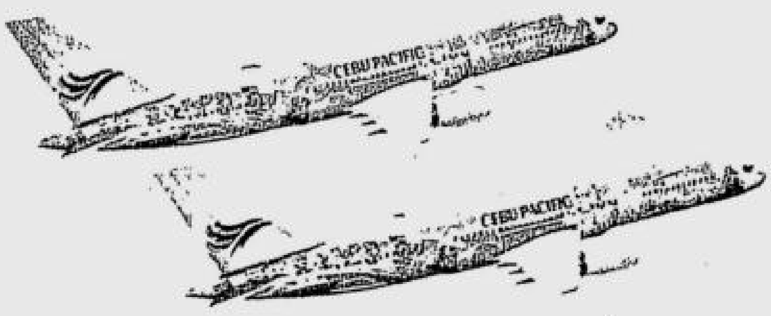
… and they're ready for take-off!



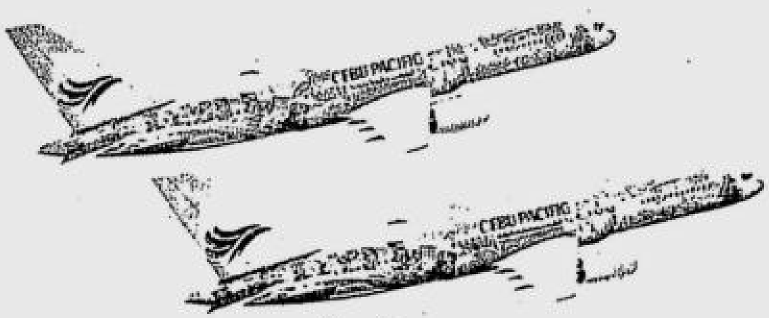
Ma. Milagros A. Cabreira
Matina, Davao City
Grand prize winner of Hong Kong round-trip package



Leah P. dela Rosa
San Rafael St., Mandaluyong City
Winner of round-trip domestic tour package



Alma A. Logronio
Gonzaga St., Mandaluyong City
Winner of round-trip domestic tour package



Josephine Gopiao Sy
Umapad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Winner of round-trip domestic tour package

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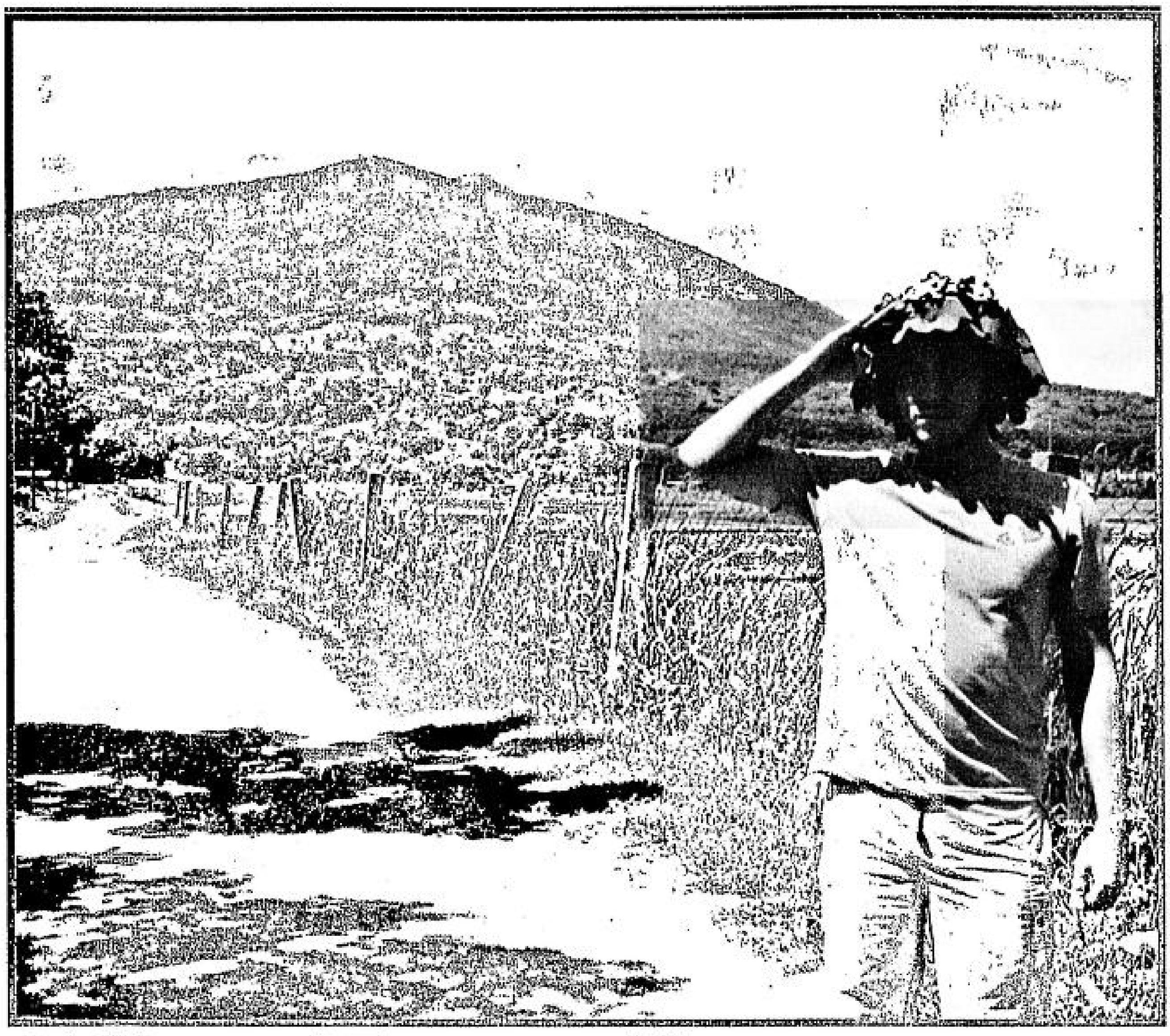
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ETHAN ALLEN

[illegible]

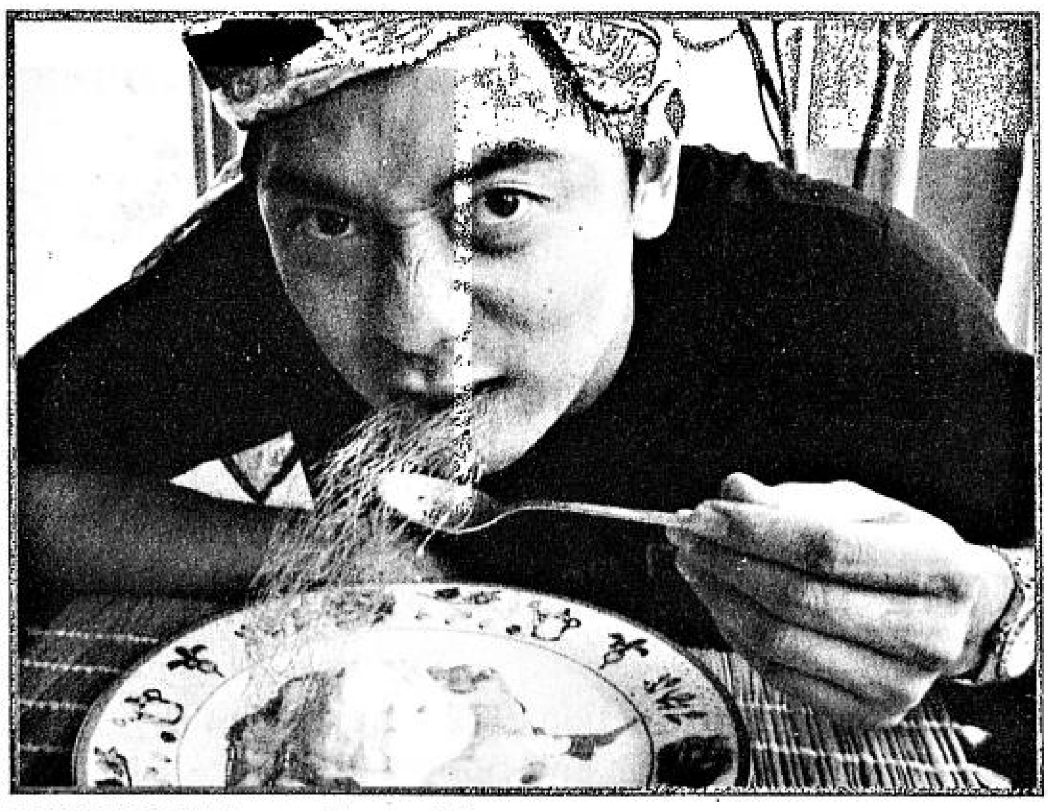
"On Foot" fetish

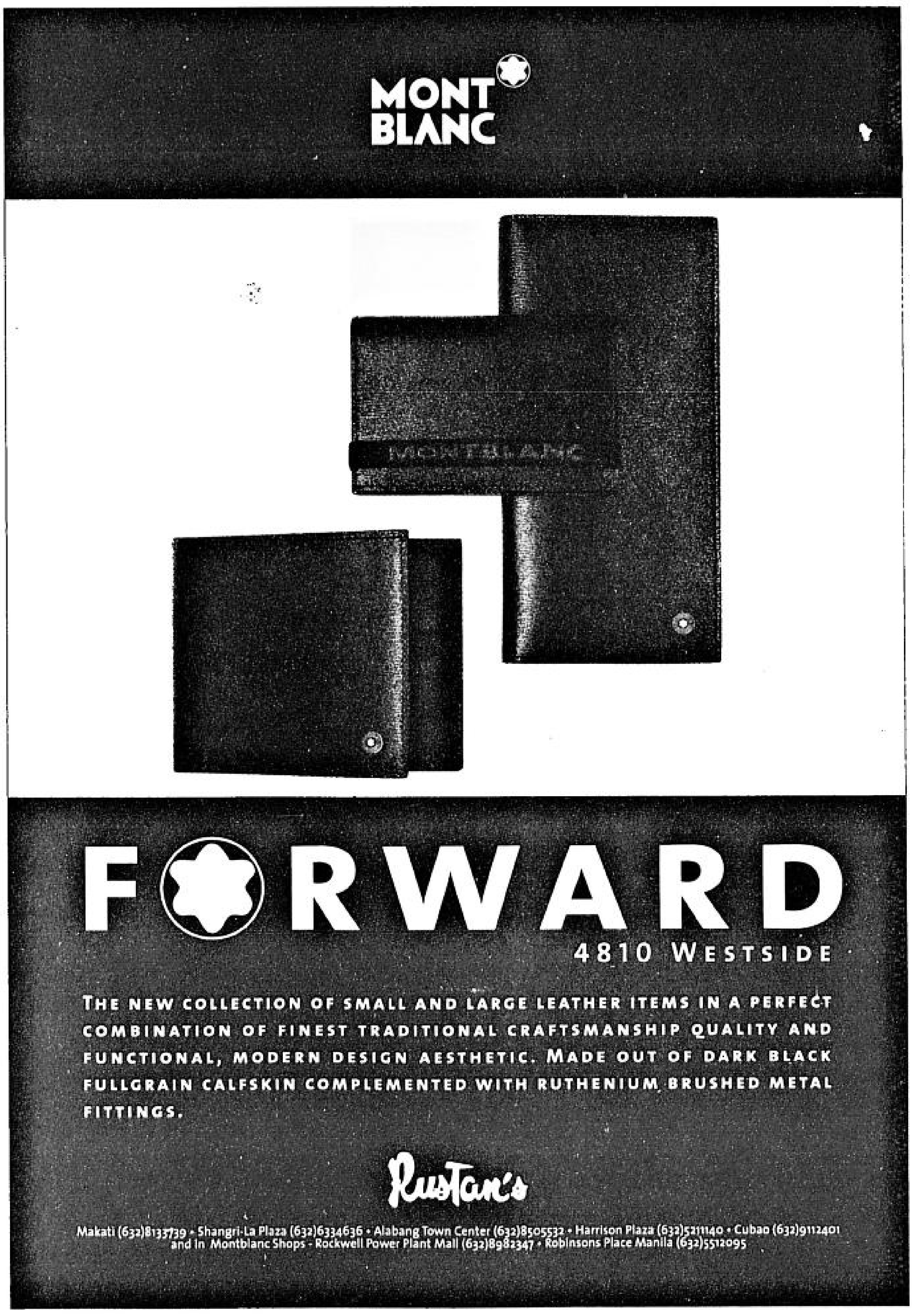
By Natalia Diaz

IN FOCUS. Cinematographer Kat Holigores of Bridal Shower and Buhay Beauty Queen, working on her latest baby

LIKE a commandment in the gospel according to Jose Rizal, oft times have I been advised in the past, "*Huwag maging dayuhan sa sariling bayan* (don't be a stranger in your own land)." I must confess, however, that I can't say I totally agree. Okay, hold the phone—before I am accused of being an unpatriotic *byatch*, allow me to explain my alternative doctrine. I think every person should, to a certain degree, be a good tourist in his own land. For to be a good tourist means to be able to view everything with the excitement of a wide-eyed traveler, and not a jaded, cynical and disinterested inhabitant. Fearless and mapless, the mindset of a traveler maintains a sense of awe and a

"ON FOOT"/12


THIS SHOW will dish out undiscovered Pinoy treasures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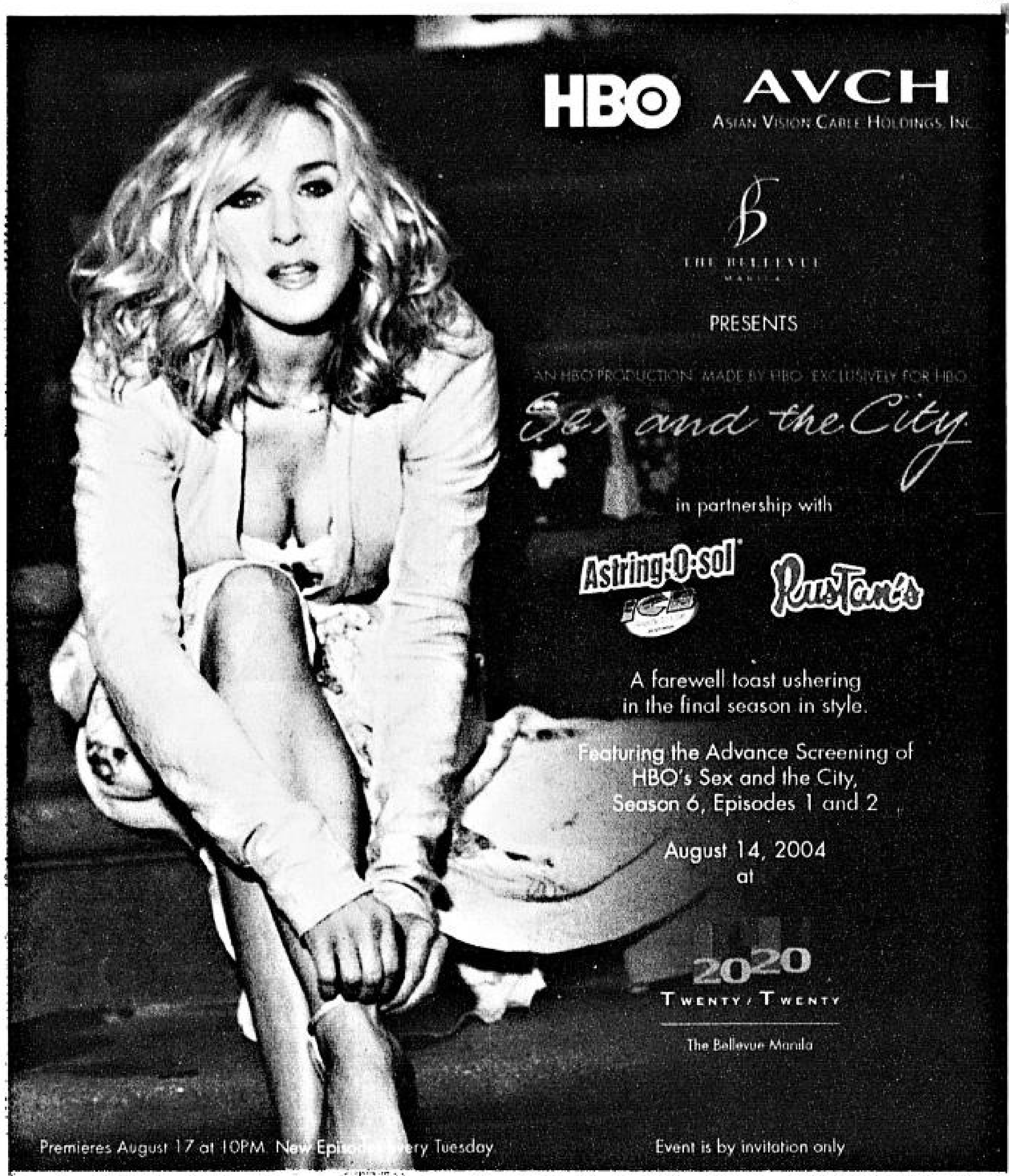

HBO AVCH
Asian Vision Cable Holdings, Inc.
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AN HBO PRODUCTION MADE BY HBO EXCLUSIVELY FOR HBO
Sex and the City
in partnership with
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A farewell toast ushering in the final season in style.
Featuring the Advance Screening of HBO's Sex and the City, Season 6, Episodes 1 and 2
August 14, 2004
at
2020 Twenty / Twenty
The Bellevue Manila
Premieres August 17 at 10PM. New Episodes every Tuesday
Event is by invitation only
Whisper BANKARD BAILEYS OXYDO Canon MSI LG FitnessFirst ÉLAN MIRROR mph THE REVIEWER Beat 92.3

"On Foot" Fetish

From page 1

healthy curiosity about thriving cultures and lush landscapes, always open to the possibility that each day brings the promise of a new adventure. I think many Filipinos become more distant from their special place in the sun because of a lack of wanderlust for their own land.

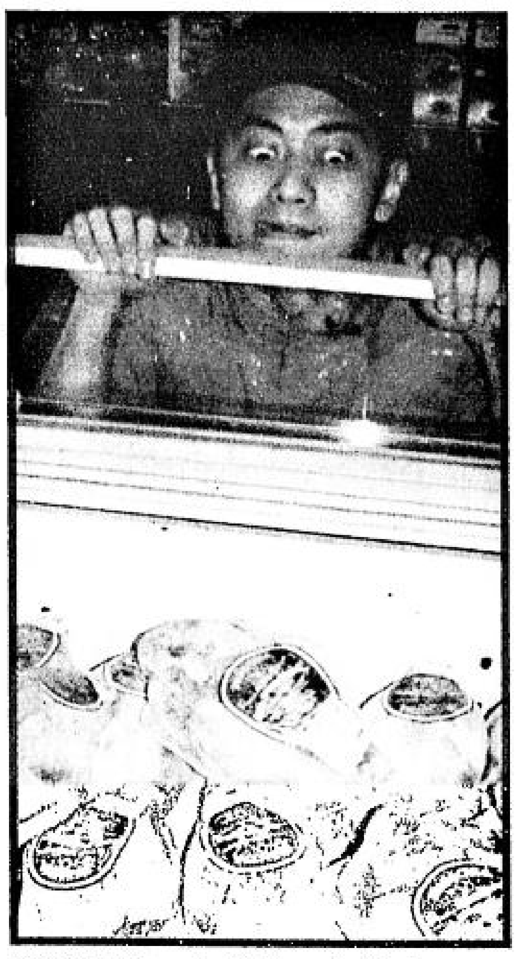
It is for this very reason that I spend quality time in bookshops, poring over travel guides and magazine articles about exotic destinations in the Philippines, making mental notes on where to go for the next long weekend. In the same vein, stumbling upon local travel shows gets me to stop fiddling with the remote control.

Clueless pedestrian

Most recently, I discovered a fresh, hip, new travel show on the Living Asia Channel called "On-Foot," which I believe to be a godsend to a channel-surfing audience hopelessly infected with Attention Deficit Disorder. On-Foot isn't the usual, overly serious, semi-documentary loaded with historical facts and piped in instrumental music. Instead, the show is a comical, offbeat and highly entertaining travelogue with a twist.

Pegged on a central theme, each episode features the irrepressible Tim Tayag, Manila's celebrated funnybone, as a clueless pedestrian unleashed onto the streets, shorelines, stations and sari-sari stores of the country. Tim catches people off-guard with shameless antics and wisecrack questions (he once asked the head of the MRT if the trains could break the sound barrier). Slap on some random pop-ups and smart-ass blurbs a la "Blind Date," and an animated, *salakot*-wearing character dubbed Pilosopo Tasyo to dish out fun facts ("The sampaguita is the Philippines' national flower; it is also a famous '70s rock band")—and the program has become a happy new addiction.

"It's about getting lost with panache. You discover more things when you get lost, when you're not on the familiar path," explains the show's producer and cinematographer Kat Holigores about her latest baby. Indeed, the production trio of Tim, Kat and Alan Bengzon of Bacon Burger Productions stumbled upon some wonderful secrets while lost and wandering off the beaten track—from an aromatherapy spa in Tagaytay boasting authentic Ifugao huts, *halo-halo* worth killing for in Pampanga, a karaoke unit at the Guadalupe MRT stop, to fresh jellyfish and Iranian dates sold in Chinatown.



OFFBEAT. Expect a highly entertaining travelogue with a twist

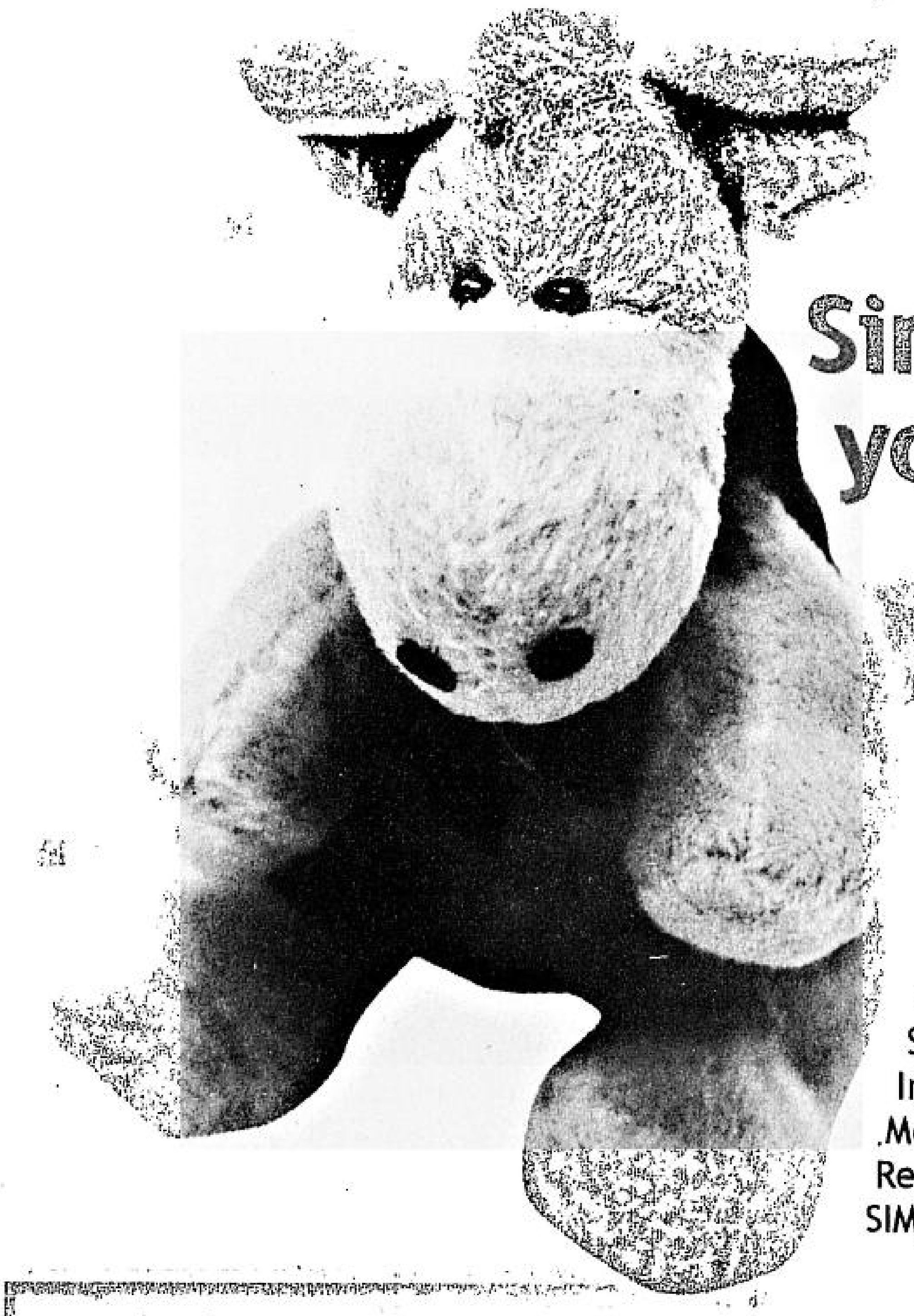
Sweet details

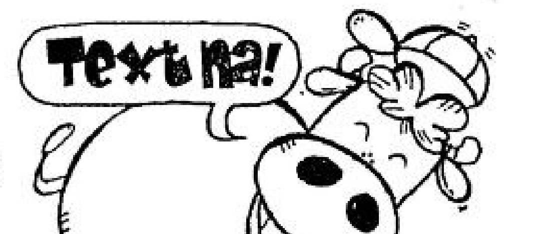
Aired in the United States, Singapore, Malaysia, Canada and Hong Kong, "On-Foot" is already gaining a following among homesick Filipinos abroad who get nostalgic over *details* of Pinoy culture like P8 *sago't gulaman* and street *lugaw*.

"On-Foot" simply proves what Herman Melville once said, that true places are not on any map. What makes the Philippines wholly unique and utterly enjoyable are the details we tend to overlook when we're unconsciously keeping our distance.

"On-Foot" airs on Living Asia (Channel 23 on Dream Cable, 49 on Destiny and 42 on Home) every Sunday at 2:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. and Tuesday at 12 noon and 8 p.m.

(Email the author at inca_orange@yahoo.com)





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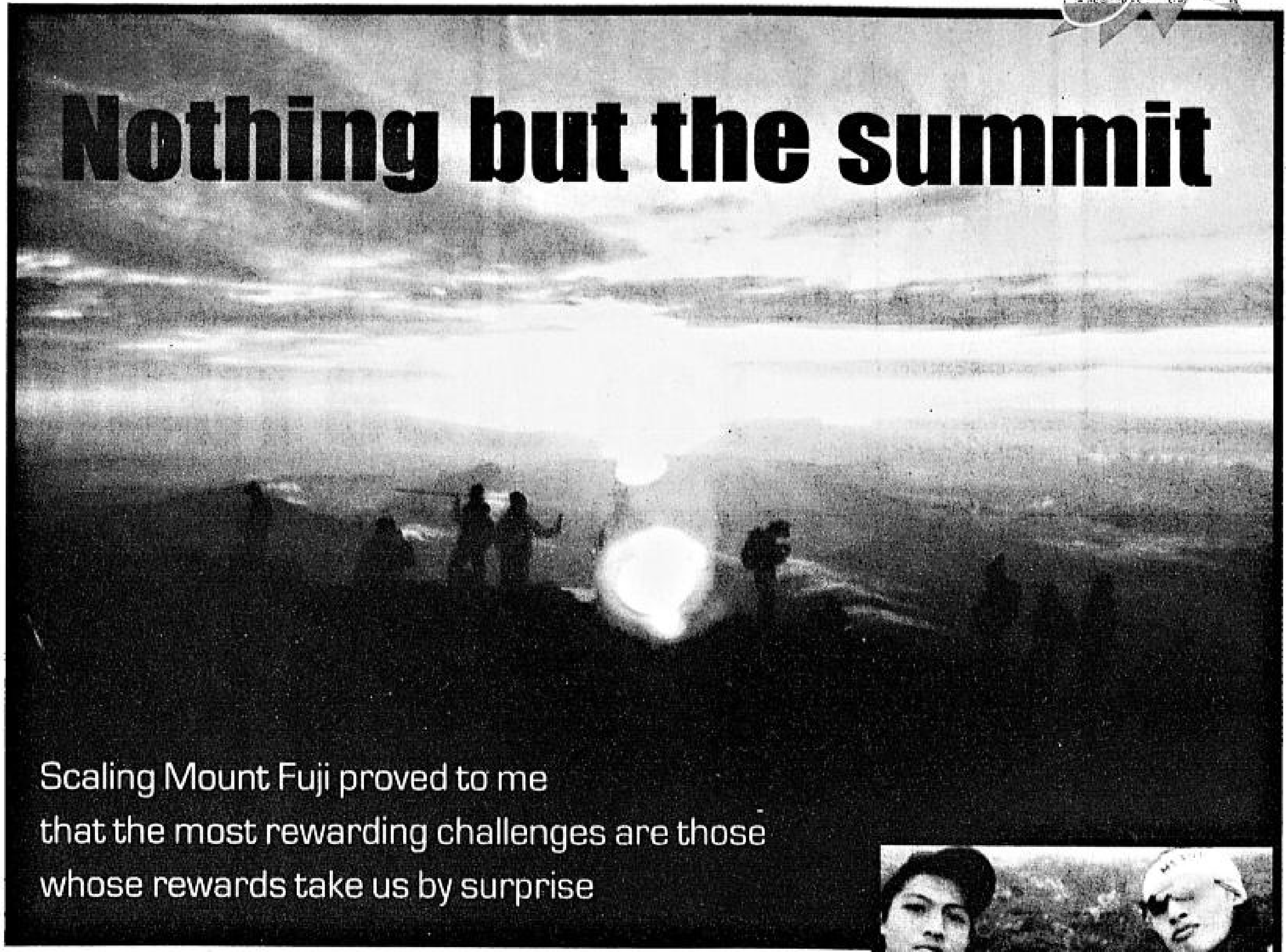
Nothing but the summit



Scaling Mount Fuji proved to me that the most rewarding challenges are those whose rewards take us by surprise

Borgy Manotoc

VOLCANIC ash crumbling beneath my soles, an explosion of colors piercing layers of clouds, icicles forming from the sweat on my brow, and nothing on my mind but the summit.

Throughout life we undertake many challenges that vary in difficulty and the degree of satisfaction we hope to attain. But the most fulfilling seem to be those acts whose rewards take us by surprise.

I expected little from my ascent on Mount Fuji other than reaching the peak by the following sunrise. I don't think I had ever undertaken a feat that similarly challenged both my physical and mental grit equally.

We should all strive to venture out of our element from time to time and explore areas far from the comforts and security of our routines. Sleeping on sheets that reeked of urine in a single bed occupied by three other individuals, having to crawl under never-washed blankets to keep away the cold that was nipping away my determination—I truly felt out of *my* element.

For decades, Mount Fuji has been reason enough to bring together many controversial cults and Nobel Prize-winning literature by tormented Japanese novelist Yukio Mishima. There was even a time when the pilgrimage to Fuji was reserved for high-ranking religious figures. The mountain carries a truly mysterious air, although much may have been lost to modern interventions, including mapped-out trails for thousands of tourists attempting the climb yearly.

Time travel

My own spiritual connection with it was brought on by a fascination with nature. The Zen Buddhist within emerged as I beheld creation reflected by life on the slopes. Fuji's history speaks of centuries of war between shoguns and the spawning of a culture that would endure till modern times. Walking the trail, it felt as though I was strolling through the Imperial Palace in the fourth century, the stones telling of loves and lives of long ago.

At 4:30 in the morning, I started scaling the face of Fuji, refusing to look anywhere but up. Mouth parched and dry, gasping for breath as the air thinned, I was running on sheer adrenalin by the time I peaked the summit. I almost fell flat on my back at the sight of that epic sunrise atop the very mountain that ruled over the Land of the Rising Sun. This is where human understanding falls short, I thought. I could no longer comprehend what I was experiencing; I could only succumb to it, truly and completely. It was the single most satisfying moment of my life.

Gift of fate

Looking back on it now, I realize that the whole journey was no less than a gift of fate—from our failure to book a hotel, to the two-and-a-half-hour detour on account of invalid information, to landing on the wrong side of the mountain, to being left with less than 80 yen for a group of four.

In the past, any physical challenge had seemed to me like a battle. Fuji was different. I dared not challenge the forces of nature. It was all I could do to respect it, and try my best to live in harmony with it all, if only momentarily.

The creation of the cradle of humanity has been the crux of philosophical debates from the beginning of civilization. On Fuji, I realized that man's greatest flaw was the pride that drove him to want to control that which he deemed responsible for all that he was going through.

Time, distance, and solitude—if we really tune in—will bring about acceptance of the fact that we are mere observers and participants in a game. We control neither the rules nor the other players. And wherever we may stand—whether at the peak of Mount Fuji or in the heart of Salcedo Village, we should never lose sight of the invariable truth that we are part of something greater than ourselves.

CLIMBING above the clouds

MY SIBLING needing some divine intervention for support

DINNER at 6:30; lights out at 8

WONDERFUL accommodations make you feel very at home

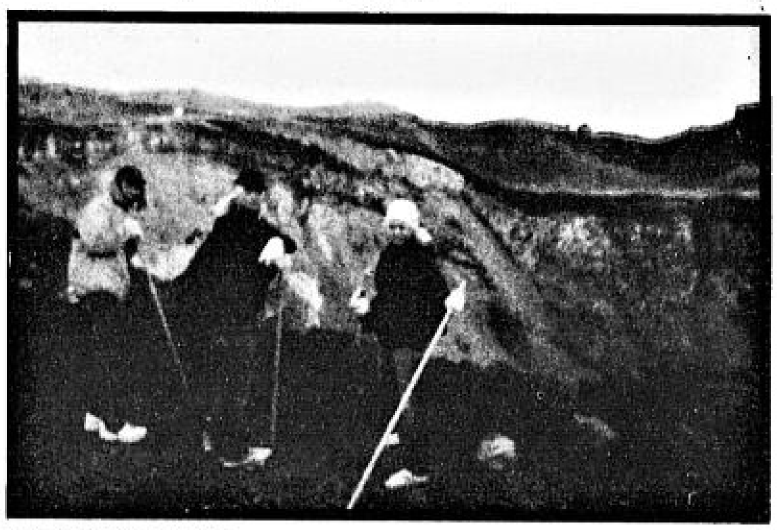
DON'T ask what we're trying to make with our fingers

富士宮口
Fujinomiya Route
7合目
The 7th Stage
3,010m

WHAT it doesn't say is that the Fujinomiya route is the easiest and shortest route

THE SIGN to stop and stay for the night

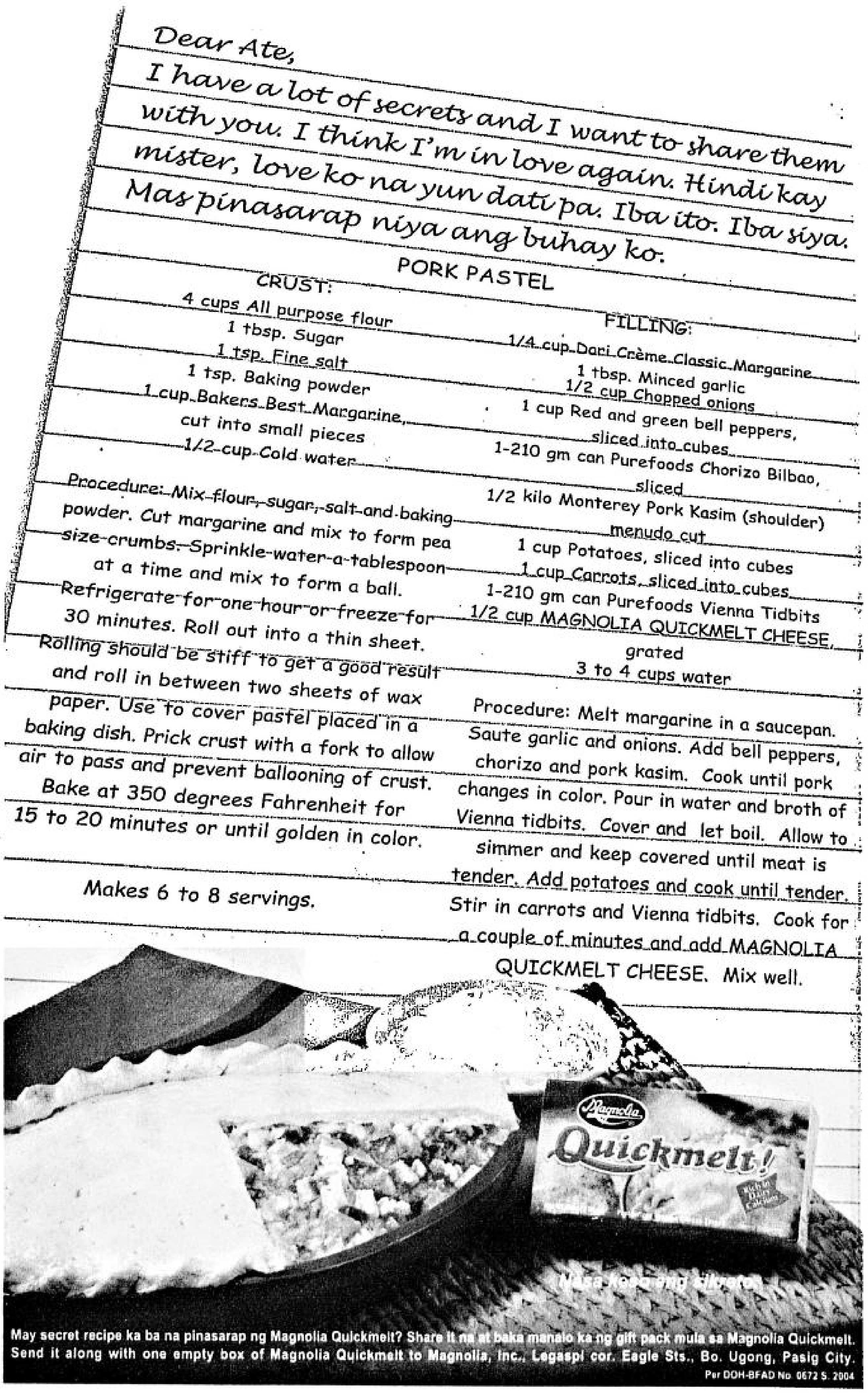
THE MINIMAL greenery on the ascent



FUJI'S crater mouth

A LOCAL Japanese man we encountered on the ascent, neon green seemed appropriate

PHOTOS BY BORGY MANOTOC USING A NOKIA 7610 SMART ADDICT PHONE



Dear Ate,
I have a lot of secrets and I want to share them with you. I think I'm in love again. Hindi kay mister, love ko na yun dati pa. Iba ito. Iba siya. Mas pinasarap niya ang buhay ko.

PORK PASTEL

CRUST:
4 cups All purpose flour
1 tbsp. Sugar
1 tsp. Fine salt
1 tsp. Baking powder
1 cup Bakers Best Margarine, cut into small pieces
1/2 cup Cold water

Procedure: Mix flour, sugar, salt and baking powder. Cut margarine and mix to form pea size crumbs. Sprinkle water a tablespoon at a time and mix to form a ball. Refrigerate for one hour or freeze for 30 minutes. Roll out into a thin sheet. Rolling should be stiff to get a good result and roll in between two sheets of wax paper. Use to cover pastel placed in a baking dish. Prick crust with a fork to allow air to pass and prevent ballooning of crust. Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 15 to 20 minutes or until golden in color.

Makes 6 to 8 servings.

FILLING:
1/4 cup Dari Crème Classic Margarine
1 tbsp. Minced garlic
1/2 cup Chopped onions
1 cup Red and green bell peppers, sliced into cubes
1-210 gm can Purefoods Chorizo Bilbao, sliced
1/2 kilo Monterey Pork Kasim (shoulder) menudo cut
1 cup Potatoes, sliced into cubes
1 cup Carrots, sliced into cubes
1-210 gm can Purefoods Vienna Tidbits
1/2 cup MAGNOLIA QUICKMELT CHEESE, grated
3 to 4 cups water

Procedure: Melt margarine in a saucepan. Saute garlic and onions. Add bell peppers, chorizo and pork kasim. Cook until pork changes in color. Pour in water and broth of Vienna tidbits. Cover and let boil. Allow to simmer and keep covered until meat is tender. Add potatoes and cook until tender. Stir in carrots and Vienna tidbits. Cook for a couple of minutes and add MAGNOLIA QUICKMELT CHEESE. Mix well.

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Per DOH-BFAD No. 0672 S. 2004

FOOD TALK. Your time with Super!'s Gino and Tina will surely whet your appetite

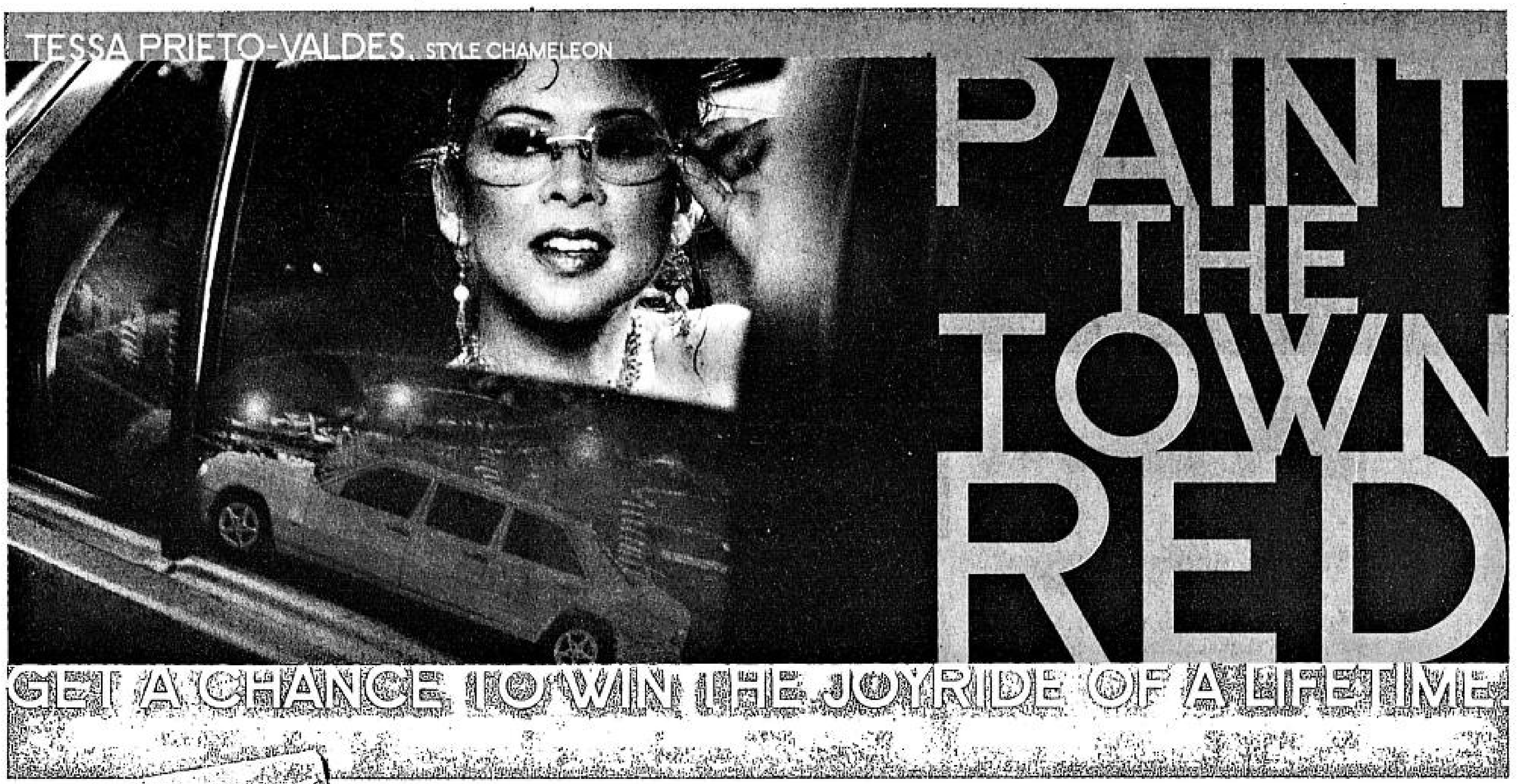
Fat-free radio

By Gino de la Paz

THIS Saturday, keep your ears glued to 103.5 K-Lite, Manila's Lite Alternative, as Super! Radio brings you something sexy, seductive, and totally sinful. Hate to burst your bubble but nope, it's not about the Kama Sutra. The pleasure one derives from it, however, sure comes close.

Join columnists Tina Pamintuan of Tina Tastes and Gino de la Paz of Age Against The Machine as they serve up Atkins-friendly morsels about everyone's second favorite F word, food. From refining one's restaurant etiquette to the McDonaldization of the world, this particular episode promises to be all about glorious food that's also food for thought. How's that for a sound bite?

You read us. Now you can also hear us. Super! Radio is on every Saturday at 11 a.m. on 103.5 K-Lite. It's ready-to-eat radio without the fat!



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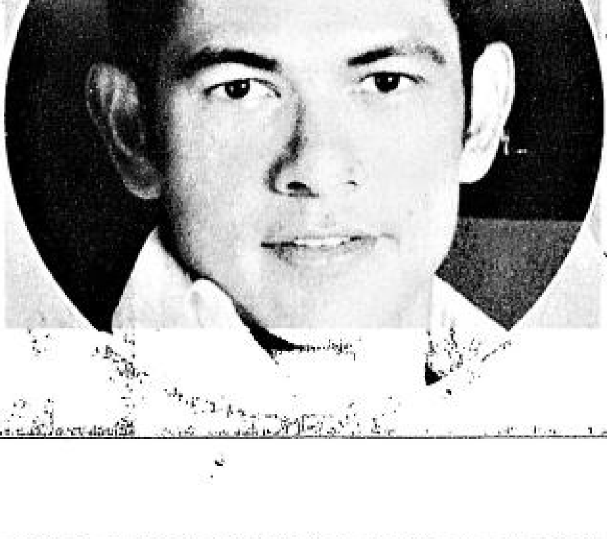
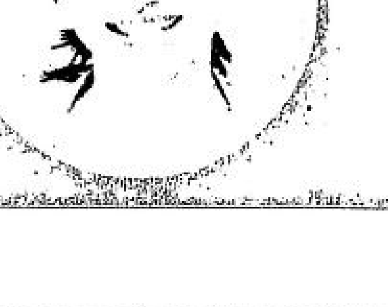
SANDARA PARK ALBUM TOUR
August 15, 2004, Sunday
4:00pm • Centermall
99.9 The BOMB
CAR STICK-ON ACTIVITY
August 15, 2004, Sunday
1:00pm to 6:00pm • Entrance Parking

SM CITY MANILA
EUROPHIL
PERFORMING ARTS
August 15, 2004, Sunday
2:00pm • 5th Floor, Activity Area
MARK BAUTISTA
August 15, 2004, Sunday
5:00pm
5th Floor, Activity Area

SM SUPERCENTER [illegible]
NYOY VOLANTE
LIVE IN CONCERT
August 15, 2004, Sunday
6:30pm • Center Atrium

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
99.9 The BOMB
CAR STICK-ON ACTIVITY
August 15, 2004, Sunday
1:00pm to 6:00pm
Entrance Parking near Terminal





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JENNYLYN MERCADO
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4:00pm • Centermall
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Music's mean girls

A celebration of the women who do it better

RAVEONETTES live

By Alessandra Tinio
Contributor

AVRIL Lavigne may call herself a punk and an angst queen, but compared to the mean girls on the indie scene, she is more like a distillation of Britney Spears in a schoolgirl wannabe skater outfit.

Women and rock 'n' roll have always had a difficult relationship. Being female and wanting to be taken seriously in the testosterone-suffused world spells hard work and total madness. In order for women to make it in this industry, they have to be mean, and they have to do it better. Especially with the arrival of such types of music as art wave—like, back when punk started—women have taken to the stage and captivated audiences, sometimes better than their male counterparts. Talk about style and heavy-hitting power: think Debbie Harry, Chryssie Hynde, Courtney Love, and Siouxsie Sou.

'Wankers'

The reality is that, to get noticed in this day and age, one

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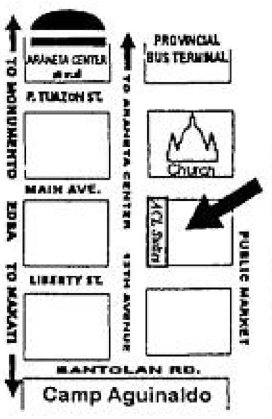
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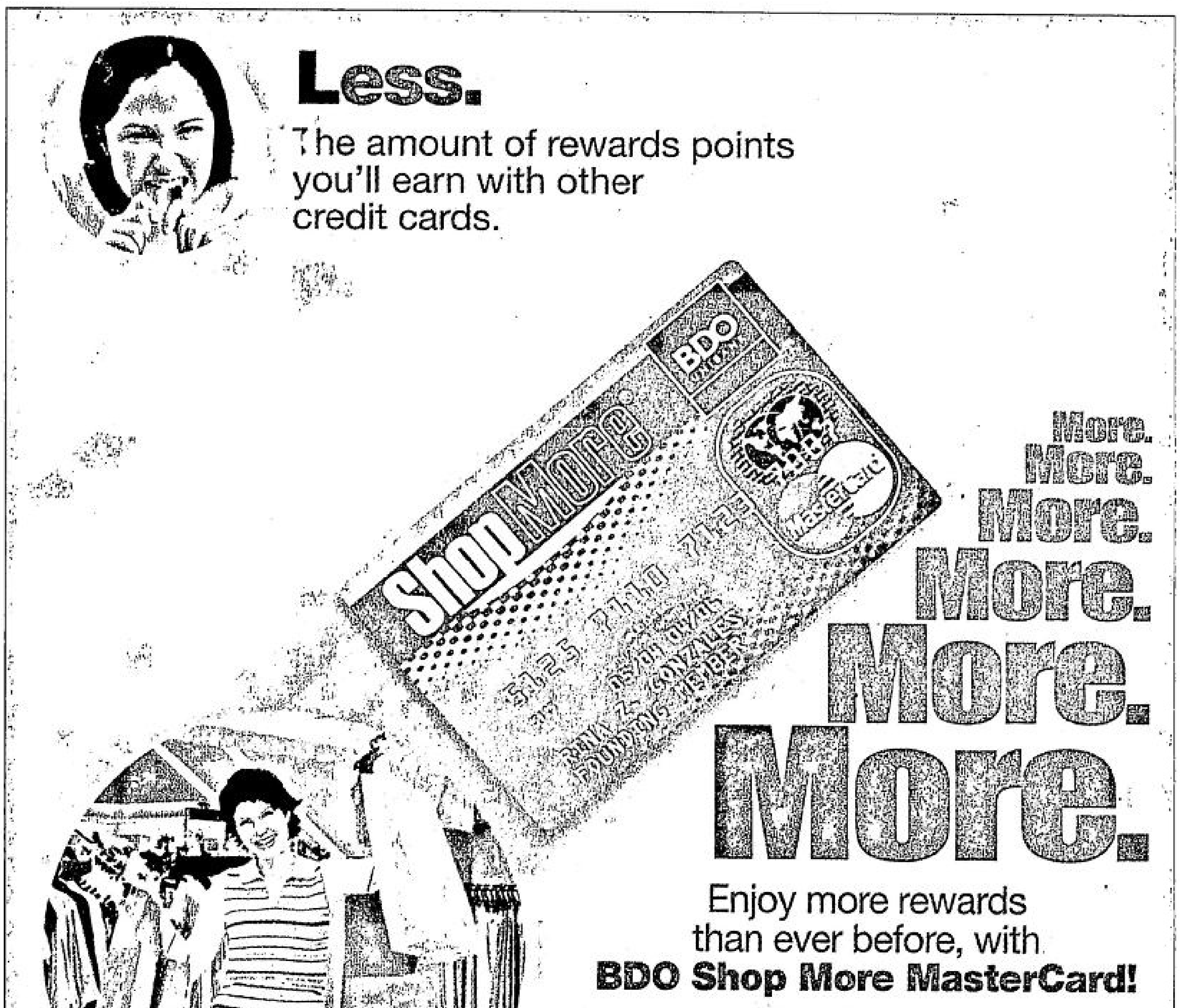
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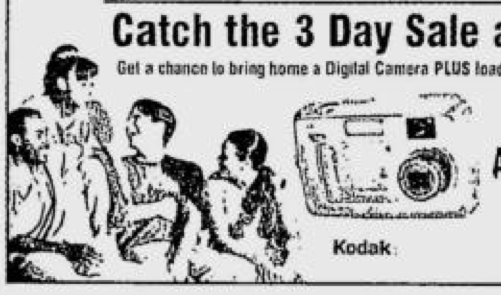

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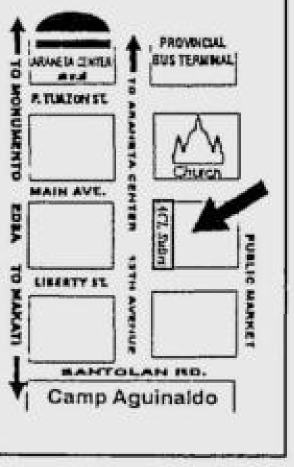

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Painstaking 'p

Akafellas combine singing and convincing sound effects to create audio artworks

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

THEIR music encompasses all types, yet none of them plays any musical instrument. Every thud and jangle, click and whir, they produce with their voices, resulting in a wide range of instrumentation for their harmonies. The Akafellas combine singing a cappella and convincing sound effects to create painstaking audio artworks that fall under the specialized category that's fast becoming known as "popcappella."

The eight-member group was formed three years ago, and has undergone a number of membership changes. The young men, aged 18 to 26, gained prominence after finishing first runner-up in 89.9 DWTM's "Voices" competition in 2002. They have since opened for Mariah Carey and American band Stephen Speaks, gone on bar tours, and performed in numerous corporate shows and weddings.

Their self-titled debut album from Star Records contains popcappellized covers of tunes from such diverse musicians as Hotdog ("Bongga Ka 'Day"), Parokya ni Edgar ("Harana"), and Carlos Santana and Rob Thomas ("Smooth").

Specific vocal responsibilities are distributed among the members: Robi Joseph—soprano 1, tenor 2, and vocal guitars and trumpets; Ikey Canoy—soprano 2 and tenor 1; Red Sandico—alto, tenor 1; Karl Villaluga—tenor 2; Reuben Uy—tenor 2; Paulo Navarra—bass 1; Roger Sigwa—bass 2; and DJ Myke Salomon—bass 1, vocal percussion, vocal dru

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Music's mean girls

From page J1

has to be "hungry" and do something way-out different. As a woman myself, I find it interesting to see that several of the changes in indie music over the past two years have been initiated by women—either talented musicians or frontwomen with the ability to go mental, dig deep, in order to show that what men can do, women can do better.

At this year's New Musical Express Awards they had a lineup that featured only female artists, at the end of which I was rendered amazed, breathless, and inspired. The first act was PJ Harvey, one of the most terrifyingly gifted artists of our time and a great stage performer. It was pretty easy to see why, from the moment she emerged, seemingly from out of nowhere and walked up to the mike, guitar in hand ... and in a fuchsia cat suit.

She proceeded with some heavy-hitting guitar works while wailing about heartbreak and the men she'd love to kill. Everything she did, she did with the legendary PJ Harvey look, quirkiness, and strange dance moves. And then she took off the cat suit to do a big Harvey favorite, "Dress" ... in her bra. She rocked the audience with her Gibson, and offended none when she declared everyone was "wankers, but lovely, even if we're not from Devon."

Next up was the Raveonettes, ultra cool Danes. Lead singer Sharin Foo's 5'11" form makes her an amazing looker onstage—like Debbie Harry with her platinum blonde hair, but with a snarl that makes her seem as tough as Siouxsie Sou.

New cool

After Sharin Foo and company's spiky 1960s rock came the three-piece performance art musicians Chicks on Speed. Although these girls don't play guitar (the title of their debut single is "We Don't Play Guitars"), their synth-pop sound, unique dancing, stylish clothes and crazy voices make them a great act. And the fact that they're German seems to explain their eccentricity even more. They embody a new class of cool; that's probably why the likes of Carl Lagerfeld and Alexander McQueen have been dying to dress them.

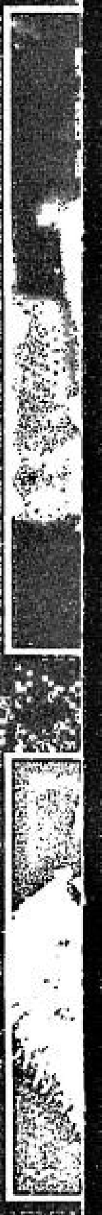
Another woman to take the stage was Alison Goldfrapp, whose sexy voice and sensual dance moves as well as her striped socks, red shoes, and horsehair ponytail make her one of the coolest women I've ever seen.

When Peaches came on, it was clear she was out to do one thing—scare the living daylights out of the spectators. Against a

THE VON BONDIES' Marcie Bolen ... can hit you with her guitar riffs

THE DISTILLERS' Brody Dale

ALISON Goldfrapp's emotional outpour



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opcappella’

ns, vocal turntable.

n

is newest member Roger: “Popcap- art form. You can do anything with ve the desire to make this main- n Manila alone, there are several sed groups forming already. There who find it weird, especially the it generally, the reception’s good.”

ella has always been around in and schools, Roger concedes, “but n’t do upbeat showband tunes.” es the group’s teamwork, saying sically what keeps the right pitch, ly if a song runs for around 15

n admits that the Akafellas didn’t first how people would respond to . They were pleased with their ear- ces’ reaction. “One of our best expe- as the Stephen Speaks concert,” he recalls. “When we appeared, people cheered. We expected them to yell, *‘Huwag na ’yan, Stephen Speaks na!’* But they didn’t.”

Their first ASAP Manila appearance was when they realized it was for real, Reuben adds. “It hit us: We’re playing in a different field now. We had our first major concert, ‘No Strings Attached,’ at the Music Museum last November. The show was all ours, and people came to watch.”

Obstacle course

While they have been impressing listeners since they won the radio contest, the Akafellas have had to hurdle challenges, big and small.

Roger explains: “For now, one of the challenges is to learn new pieces. For an a cappella group *na* eight voices, it’s not that easy. Bands can be told, ‘Play this.’ One guitar stroke can produce six notes at once. It’s more demanding for us.”

Sometimes during gigs, Reuben adds, they encounter technical problems. “For example, when we perform in a new venue, the sound people who are used to band settings fail to set the mikes. Also, we need to be mixed properly. Sometimes they don’t know how to do that.”

Another member, Paulo, expounds on how they work at their collective sound: “We have specific parts. If one person is missing, it’s obvious. It’s very chordal. May high tones, midtones, low tones. *Sa* scheduling, some of us are in school, some of us work, so sometimes some of us aren’t present. It’s hard to have us all together at one time. I guess to solve that, we practice at night, ‘cause that’s the only time we’re free.”

The Akafellas are now also exercising their creative faculties along with their vocal chords, because they are experimenting with their own material. As Paulo puts it, “We wanna sing original songs.”

HEAVY-HITTING. PJ Harvey

RAVEONETTES’ lead singer Sharin Foo is amazing onstage

AND SENSUAL. Goldfrapp

Y. The Kills

VEY in action

owerful vocals
ck you over

backdrop of women with fake beards and, *uhhhm*, strap-ons, she commenced her act by screaming into the mike that she didn’t give a damn about her reputation. Like Goldfrapp, sex is Peaches’ selling point. She stripped off layer after layer of clothing between songs. With her aviator shades and three-chord punk heaviness this mean girl meant to say one thing to all the men who ever pissed her off: “F*** you.” Not bad for a former kindergarten teacher.

The next act was The Kills, a duo I fell in love with when I moved to London. The band consists of Hotel and VV (no real identities in the name of coolness, of course). But VV is one of the most captivating women in music today, with her bass guitar in hand and a scratchy voice reminiscent of Courtney Love. As talented as Kim Deal, she wowed the crowd with her vocal power as well, in her performance of The Kills hits.

Up next were The Von Bondies, a Detroit four-piece group whose lead singer, Jason Stollsteimer, was in the news recently for suffering a severe bashing at the hands of White Stripes lead singer Jack White. But the heart and soul of this trash rock band is the “dirty” guitar and bass player Marcie Bolen. At first sight, she looks like the girl next door, big innocent eyes and cute-as-pie red hair. But when the band takes the stage and her guitar riffs hit you, it’s a definite sonic assault that send a rush like no other. It’s no surprise that their new single, “C’mon C’mon,” is climbing the British charts at lightning speed.

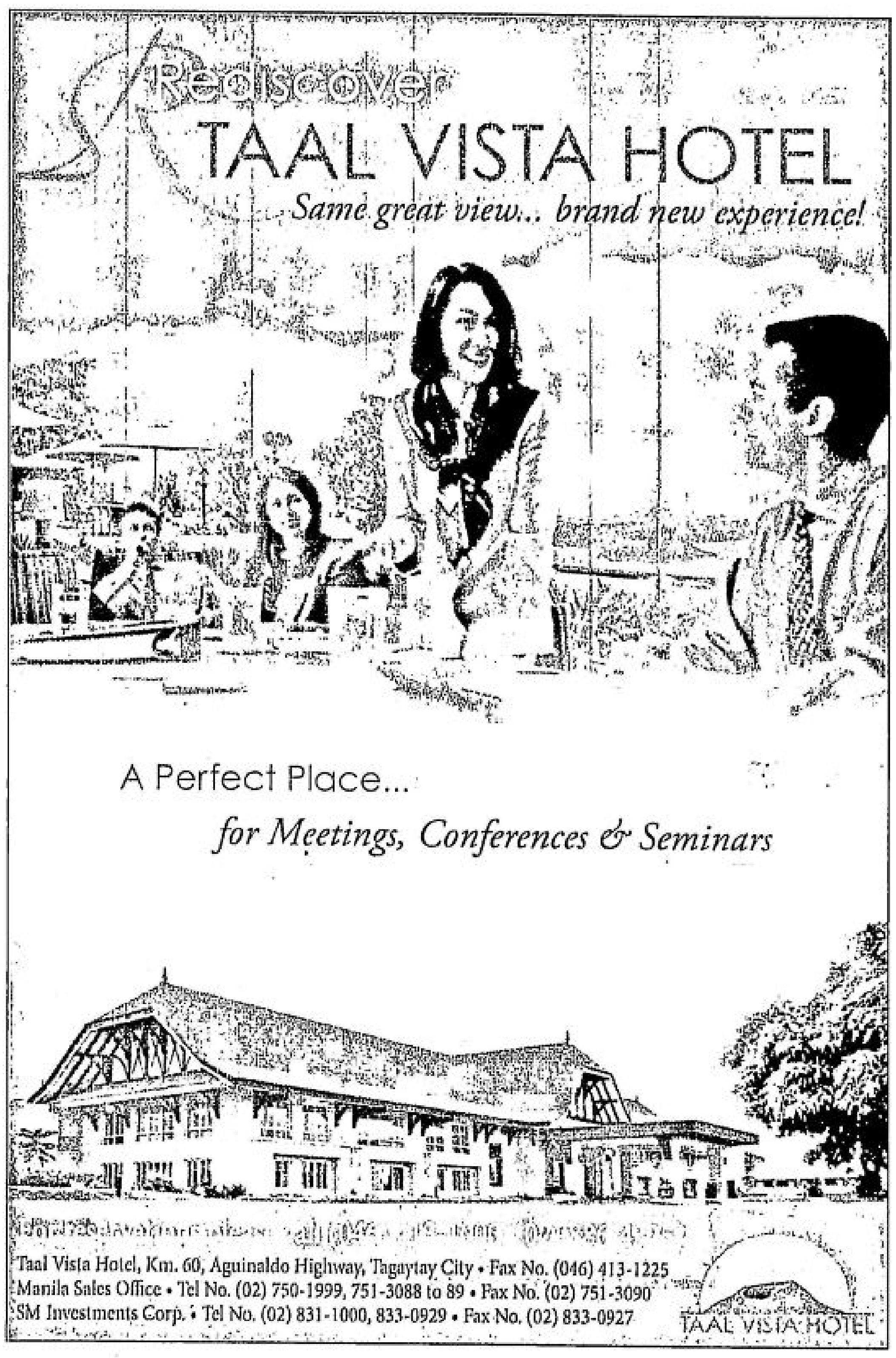
‘Mean’ personified

The last two groups to play were bands whose two women members personify the term “mean girl.” They are charismatic, amazing musicians and, to put it plainly, their bands would be nothing without them. The Yeah Yeah Yeah’s lead singer, Karen O, is one of the coolest and craziest frontwomen in the rock scene today. She came on stage in a purple latex suit, feeling saucy and looking abnormal, and proceeded to run around as the band played its hit, “Pin.” At one point she left the stage to come back as the stylish Karen O we all know—in fishnet stockings, ripped-up clothes, and a Joy Division tee. When Lady O speaks, we just have to listen.

Finishing up the event was The Distillers, formed by lead singer Brody Dalle, former wife of Tim Armstrong, lead singer of the LA punk band Rancid. Controversy was sparked earlier this year upon the discovery of Dalle’s new beau Josh Homme, of the metal band The Queens of the Stone Age. Dalle is a veritable icon for women who refuse to fit the mold, and is often branded as the new Courtney Love. The only difference is that she *can* play guitar.

She rocked us harder that night than many other bands we’ve experienced, including Metallica. With the single, “Drain the Blood,” as The Distillers’ encore, the event was truly a testimony to genuine female rockers.

(To find out more about these artists and others please email me at atrazy@hotmail.com)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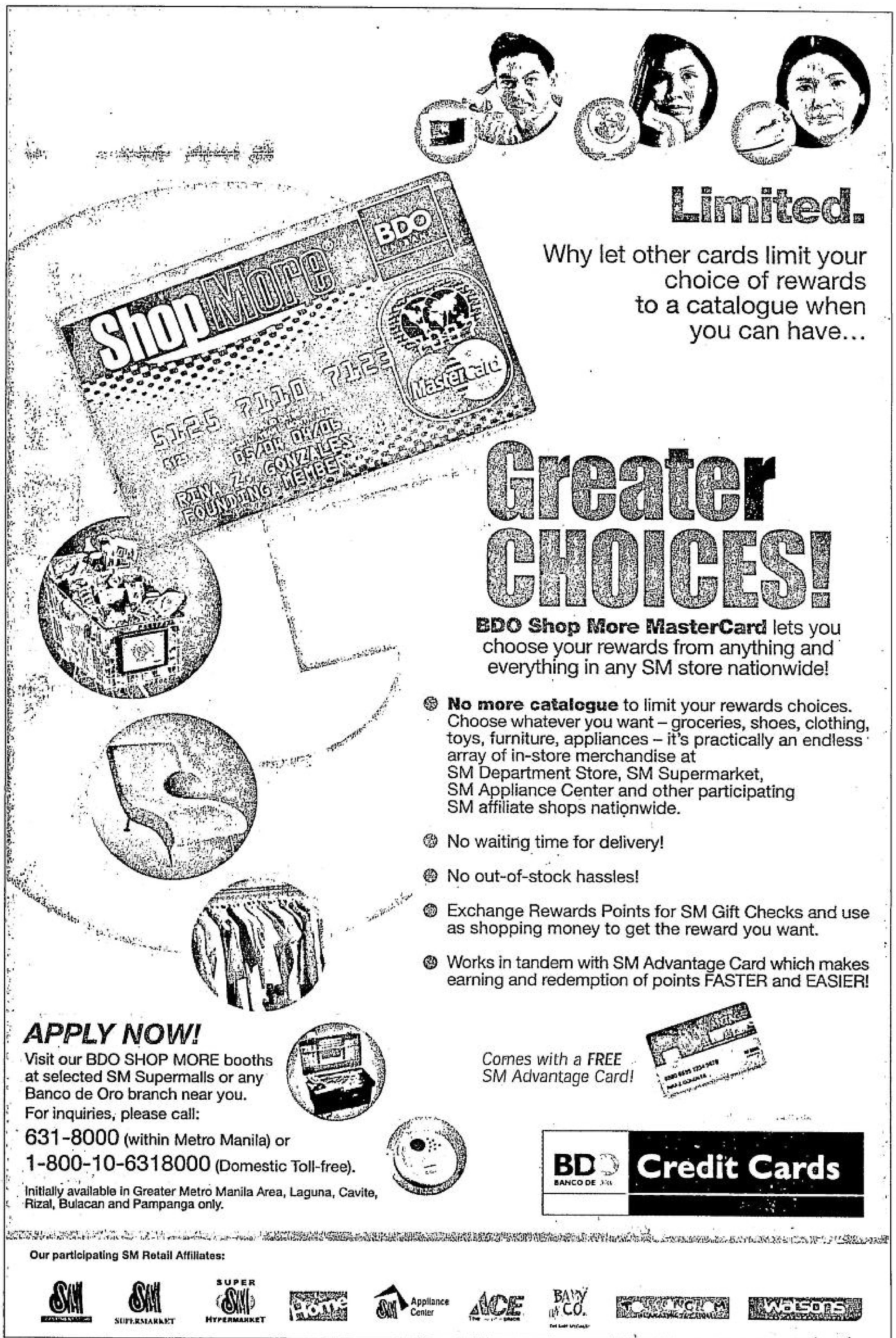
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Thanks to Nikki

By Alex Escat

SUNSHINE. Her perky smiles captures your attention on weekends

THE PERKIEST smile nudges you to attention every weekend while you watch the cartoons (do not deny it; were are all still children at heart). It shakes off your hangover and wipes away the sleep from your eyes. Like a strike of thunder, this girl-next-door has won you with innocent charm.

Suddenly, you start reminiscing about those good old days when life was all about maple syrup pancakes, fairy tale story books, and Mickey Mouse! Who is this bright muse?

I will let you into the secret world of Nikki Muller, my greatest friend. She is a half- Pinay, half-Swiss beauty who has been a pillar for me this past year. I have known her ever since she tumbled into our first-period history class some five years ago, fresh from an all-girls convent school in London. We became instant buddies.

Our friendship grew fast. After our high school graduation last school year, we took a break while all the rest of our classmates and friends moved abroad for further study. It was tough not knowing where we were in life, neither kids nor adults, stuck between steps one and two, utterly confused and questioning our options.

We had only each other to hold on to. This was even more troublesome since we were, and still are, so not alike. Nikki loves frankfurters, I love veggies; she adores opera, I adore rock; she has a fear of creatures, I love squeezing any little animal; she hates gardening, I enjoy it; she wears dark nail polish, I wear pinks.

Our friendship is an electrifying one, kindled by the attraction of opposite poles. It turned out, this contradiction was just what we needed. We haven't had a fight; we haven't even argued. Having only each other hasn't only made our hairs stand with kinetic energy; it has made us shockproof.

Like they say, the stronger the winds, the tougher the tree. This "typhoon" year has made our friendship more of a partnership. Nikki has balanced my life, bringing reason, depth and meaning to it. We talk for hours on end about romantic ideals, religion, art and relationships. We analyze our surroundings and appreciate all that has been given to us.

I am now more at ease about the otherwise big black future, thanks to Nikki. She has been a shoulder to cry on, the singular push that has made me strive for the better. And you know what? I don't need anyone else.

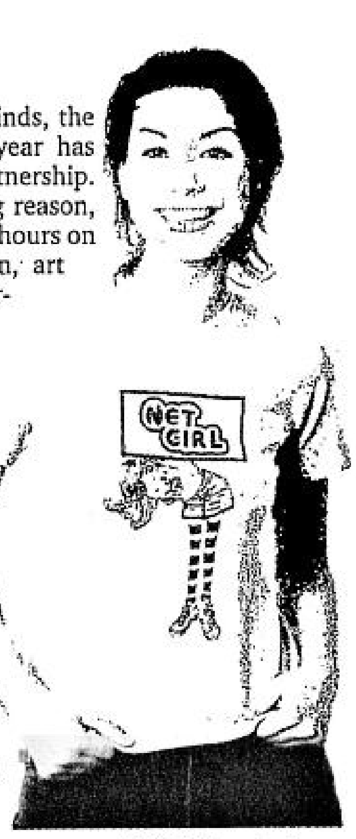
At first glance she is little more than a perky Disney girl. But then her sunshiny smile gives us a sneak peak into her intense persona. It is what shakes us up when we turn on the TV and see her pearly whites beaming.

Who is this new-found friend? Who is Nikki Muller? My partner, my pillar, my friend.

Lighting doesn't have to strike twice; once can last a lifetime!

SHOCKPROOF. The author (left) with Nikki Muller

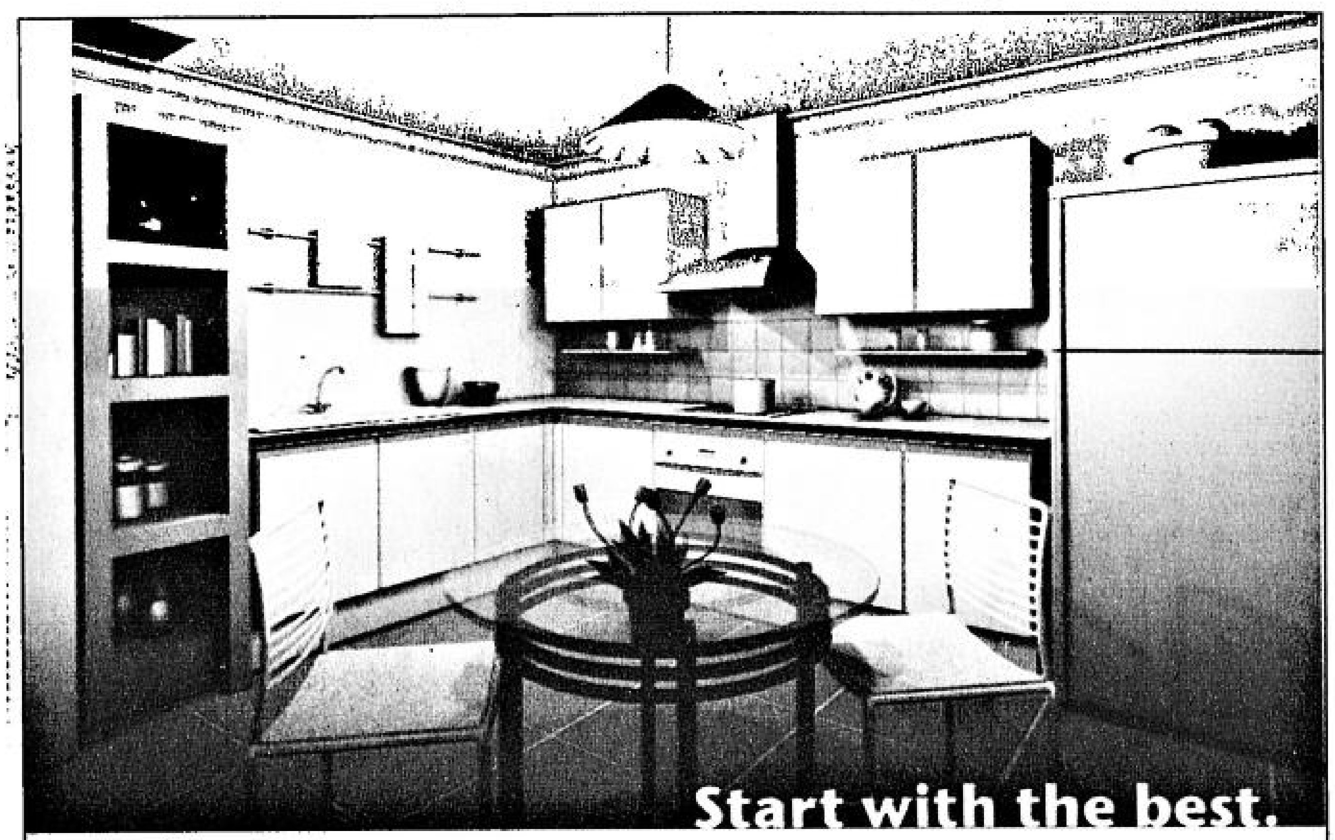
THE DISNEY girl with her Disney friends



SWEET and intense

ADORABLE ANGEL. Little Nikki

ALL grown up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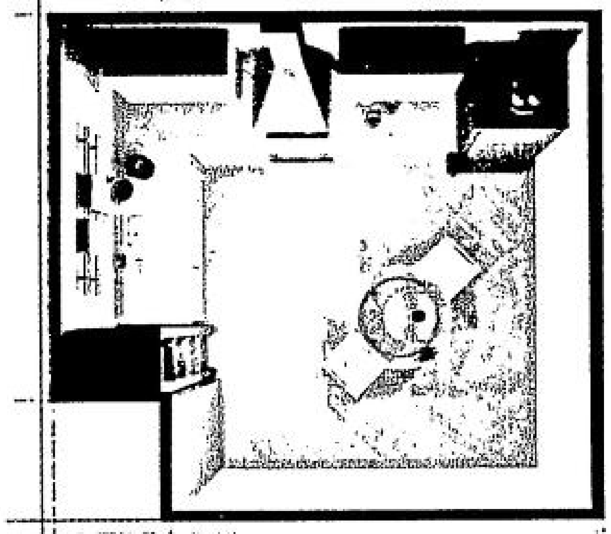
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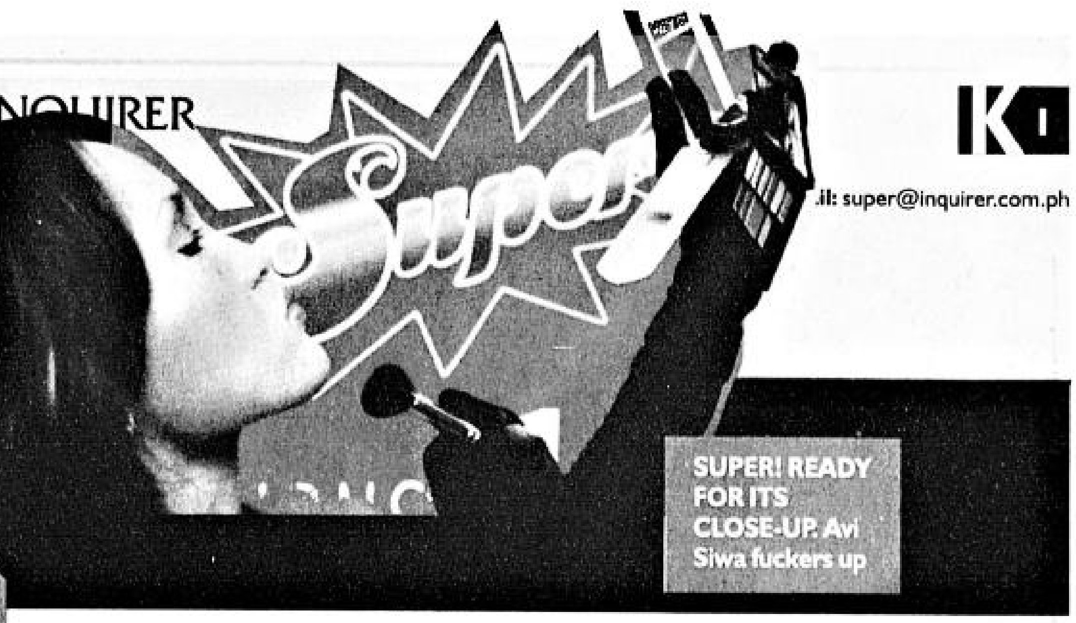
NAUGHTY AND VERY NICE. Martin Valdes, Tim Yap in his Rajo Laurel breast suit and Jack de Mesa hanging out with the Ideal People girls



SUPER! READY FOR ITS CLOSE-UP. Avi Siwa fuckers up

SUPER TURNS ONE

Come one, come all!

ORNUSSA! The party scene's newest "it" girl, Borgy Manotoc's current flame and sexy beast Ornussa Cadness

By Tim Yap
Photos by Karl Sumbeling

"YOU are invited."

We started out by inviting you to take part in the youth pop culture movement of the moment by picking up the INQUIRER on Saturdays and getting into the minds of fearless and forward-thinking writers from diverse fields who share an addiction for all things S.U.P.E.R.!

For those of you who just emerged from life in a basement, this stands for Style, Urban Living, Pop Culture, Entertainment and Recreation.

After taking on the awesome responsibility of being a beacon for the youth whose sense of individual style and sensibility was certainly growing, we then stripped ourselves of inhibitions, as if we had any in the first place. We turned one this year. The result? One big,

COME/ K2

> In a line, the crowd represented a generation that aims to make a mark—an exclamation mark

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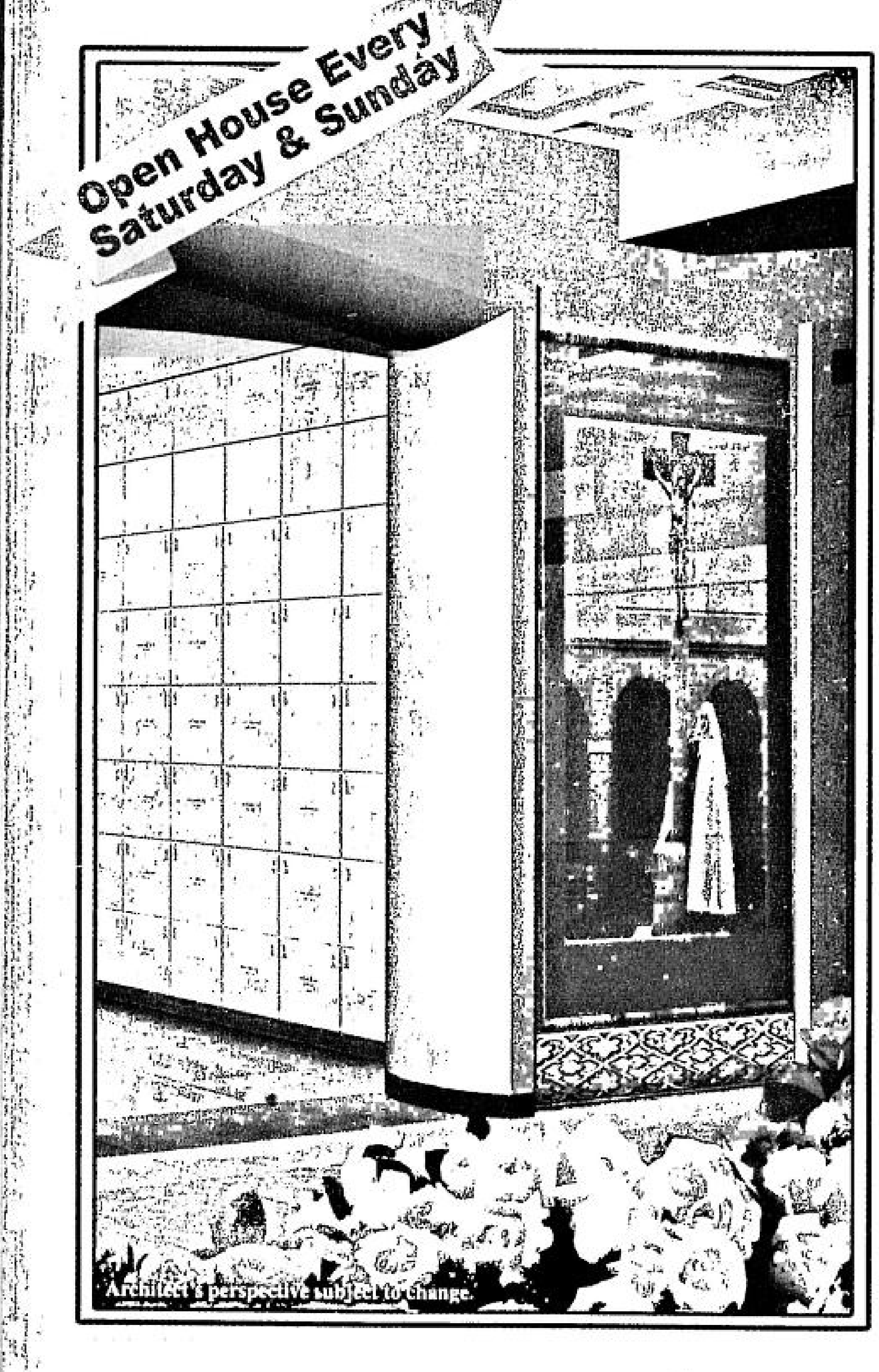
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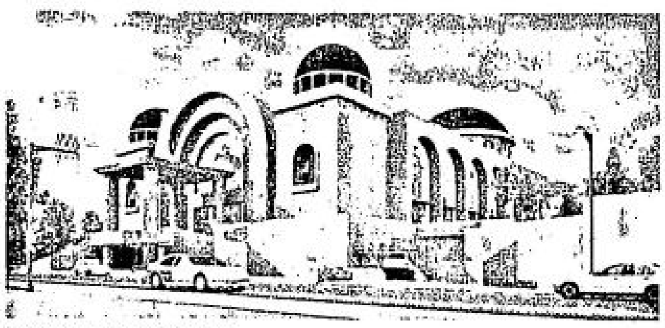
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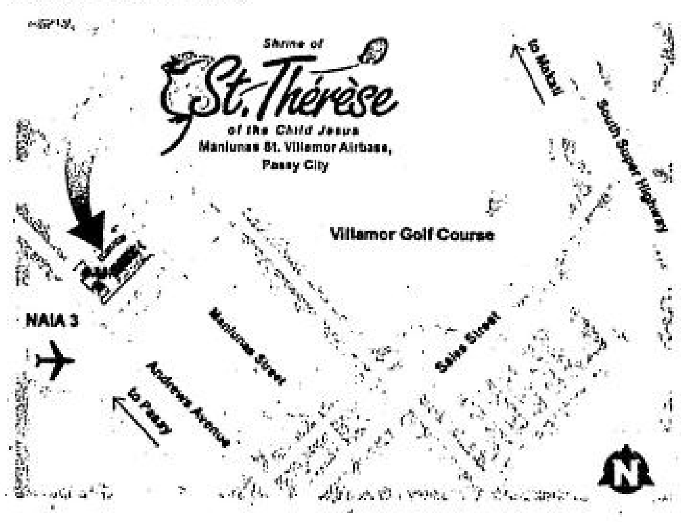

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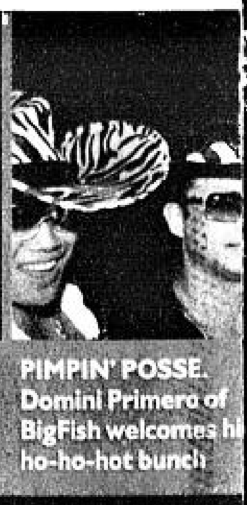
"GODDESS on the mountaintop, burning like a silver flame..."

JT MOVES, JT grooves

TESSA as a blond mama-san

MODEL-WATCHING with Kiko Escora, Ria Bolivar, Gian Romano, winner of MEGA YDG off to London, Kara Tolentino, Tina Daniac



PIMPIN' POSSE. Domini Primero of BigFish welcomes hi ho-ho-hot bunch

EDDIE BOY ESCUDERO

...AND BABY you can turn me on

BAD BOYS, bad boys, what you going to do

SUPER!'s version of Sex and the City

MY MILKSHAKE is better than yours. We can teach you but we have to charge

Come one, come all!

From page K1

pimpin' ho-ho-ho party. (Pimpin', as you should know by now, is slang for "fab.")

"I am Super!" is our battle cry for empowerment. And as eternal allies, there are the Superfriends—all our columnists, staff, contributors and yes, readers. At our recent "Super Turns One" Ball, everyone turned up with much anticipation of what's in store for the future in this super section.

"What's your pleasure?" The partyphiles present seemed to ask one another. Leather. Fetish. Animal print. Faux fur. Flesh. Trash. Class. The gathering was a sight for sore eyes. A sensory overload of sexy people addicted to each other.

Dancers gyrated inside cages. Lingerie ladies filed past in a playful parade. The crowd raised fists in approval and jiggled away.

"Pimping" (pun not intended) music alternately spun by Organised Chaos, James Pierce from the UK and DJ TC of BigFish played ear candy to an up-for-it crowd of Super! thrill seekers. I, with my Rajo Laurel "breast-dressed" suit made of stockings and cushion, played it very naughty yet very nice. Huggable to say the least.

Super! resident trendspotter and snubber Gino de la Paz played porn king while Tali Diaz went the Catholic schoolgirl route. Giselle Segovia decided to keep it short, while Martin Valdez (who's leaving for New York—we will super-miss him) chose to play it big. His shades, I mean. Pam Pastor wore royal blue knits while Bianca Valerio donned silk (a diamond-studded corset, to be exact).

Visual sniper Steve Tirona put on his gold tooth. GP Reyes and Chicho Suarez wore matching "meaningful" shirts. Victoria London flaunted her attitude.

In all, the crowd represented a generation that aims to make a mark—an exclamation mark.

Here's to a Super! year ahead.

GOOD GI
BAD BOY
Marcel C
doing th
moves

EDDIE BOY ESCUDERO

THE LAST TEMPTATIONS. Lingerie as tools of fantasy

HERE to perk you up

WAIT
WING
BETT

FING
GOO
MA

CUM hither and go "Better than Bare"

OPEN UP. Let's play

FULFILL your fantasies and strip off your inhibitions

At Long Lus

By Giselle Segovia
Photos by Steve Tirona

WAVE after licentious wave of pulsating heat coursed through the crowd as each lady preened herself regally on the catwalk garbed in full bedroom wear. Like a dream, Super!'s Better than Bare Show presented heavenly bodies floating in and out of the stage, wearing the best of cutting-edge underwear, previously unavailable to today's cosmopolitan *Pinay*.

The colorful array of intimate apparel were from established lines such a Shirley (of Hollywood), Pielle (Italy and Della Spiga (Brazil). These brand are all available at "Better than Bare, the new haven for women owned b femme-fatales, naturally—designe duo Mimi and Juliet Tan.

Erotic is not enough to describe th picture of throbbing passion—fashion. It was certainly so much more.

Orgasmic is a better term—it fit the event like a glove. And the women in the audience were only too ec static to discover that they can finall get their hands on exceptional lingerie. At long lust—err, make tha "last"—our fantasies can come true.

Better than Bare is located at th G/F BSA Mansion, 108 Benavide Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

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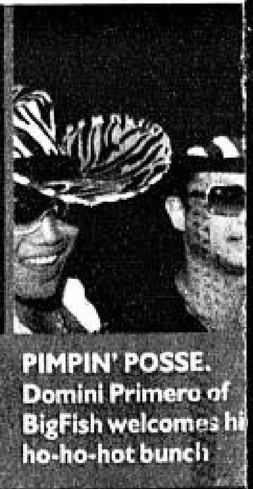

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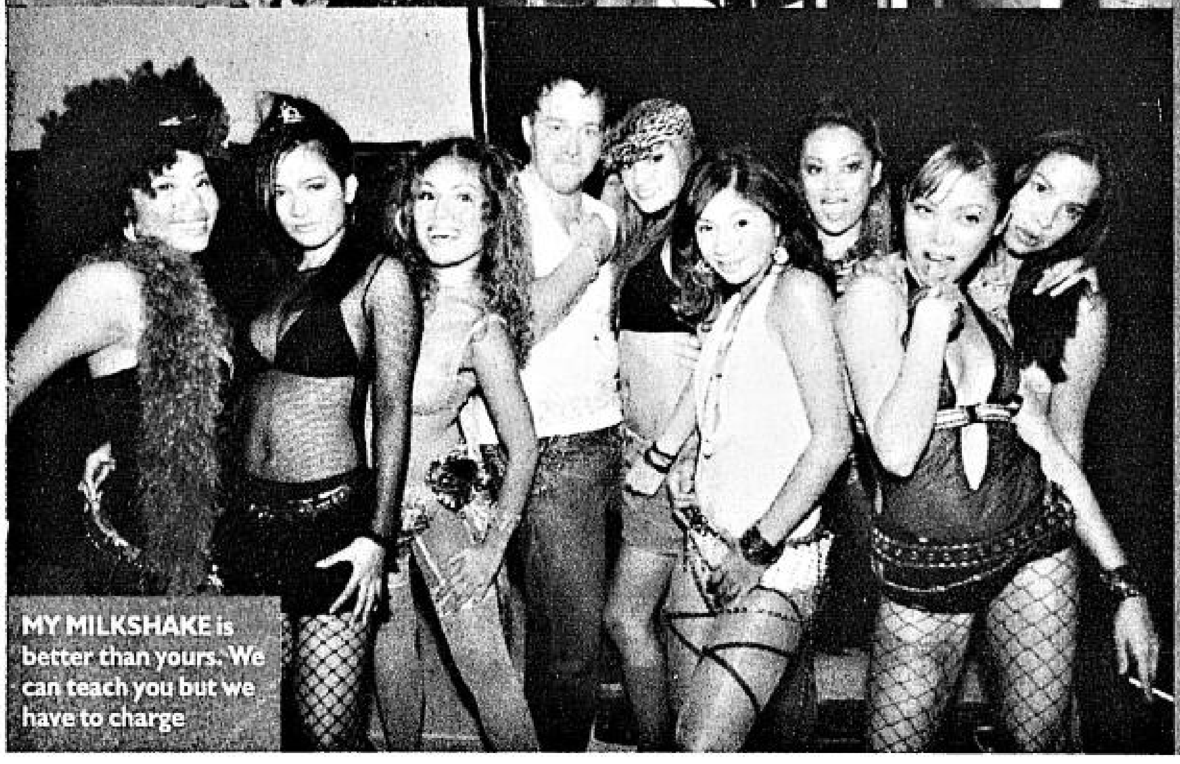

MY MILKSHAKE is better than yours. We can teach you but we have to charge

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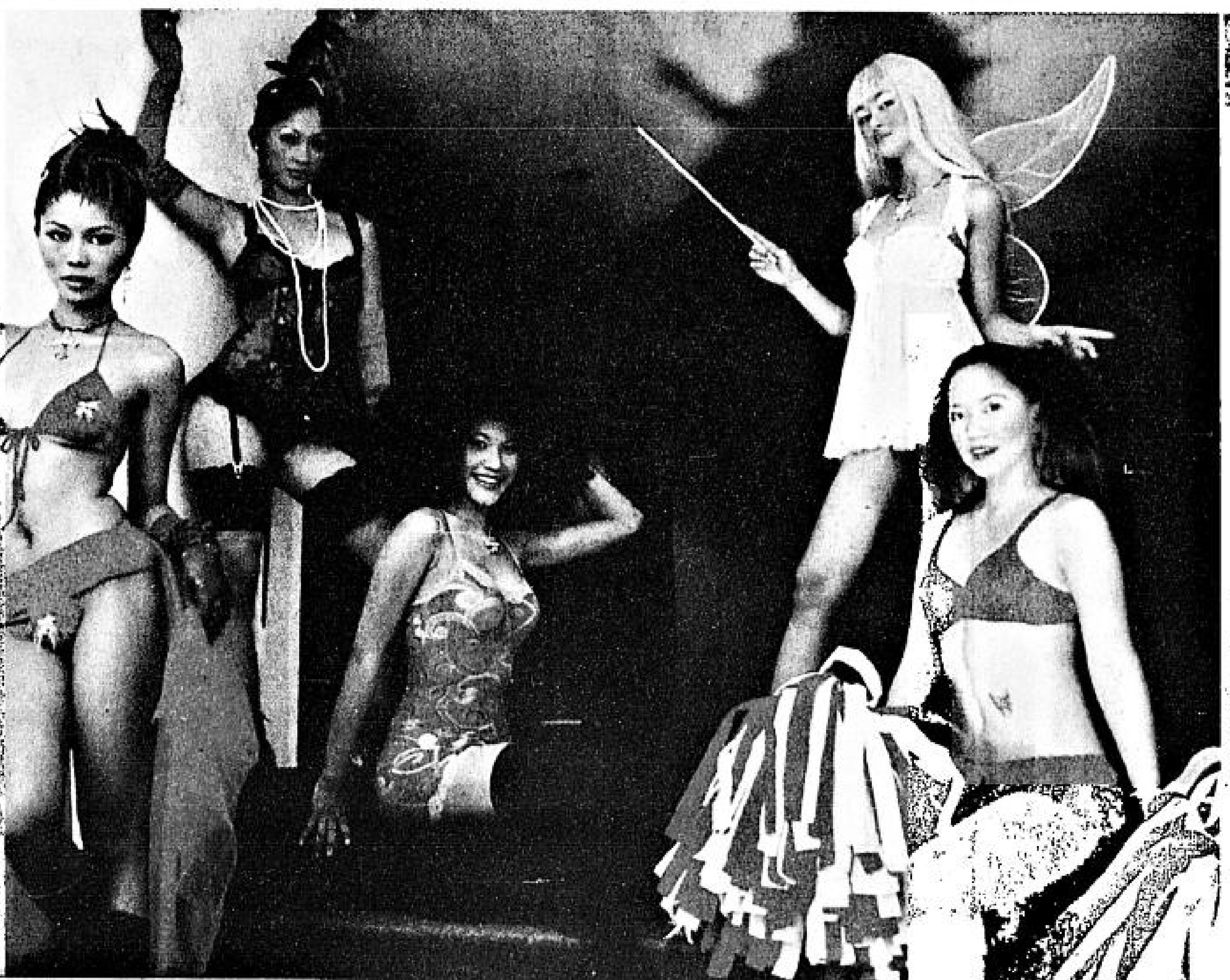
GOOD GIR BAD BOY. Marcel Cre doing "the moves"

EDDIE BOY ESCUDERO



THE LAST TEMPTATIONS. Lingerie as tools of fantasy

HERE to perk you up

WAIT WING BETT

FING GOO MTV

CUM hither and go "Better than Bare"

OPEN UP. Let's play

FULFILL your fantasies and strip off your inhibitions

At Long Lus

By Giselle Segovia
Photos by Steve Tirona

WAVE after licentious wave of pulsating heat coursed through the crowd as each lady preened herself regally on the catwalk garbed in full bedroom wear. Like a dream, Super!'s Better than Bare Show presented heavenly bodies floating in and out of the stage, wearing the best of cutting-edge underwear, previously unavailable to today's cosmopolitan *Pinay*.

The colorful array of intimate apparel were from established lines such a Shirley (of Hollywood), Pielle (Italy and Della Spiga (Brazil). These brand are all available at "Better than Bare, the new haven for women owned b femme-fatales, naturally—designe duo Mimi and Juliet Tan.

Erotic is not enough to describe th picture of throbbing passion—fash ion. It was certainly so much more.

Orgasmic is a better term—it fit the event like a glove. And the wom en in the audience were only too ec static to discover that they can finall get their hands on exceptional lin gerie. At long lust—err, make tha "last"—our fantasies can come true.

Better than Bare is located at th G/F BSA Mansion, 108 Benavide Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

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DJ DUO. James Fierce of Organised Kaos UK with DJ TC of BigFish

EXOTIC erotic trio on the loose

LADY MIME-ALADE. Sophie and René Costner

DIRTY DANCING, HAVANA NIGHTS?!

COLORFUL COMBO. Kara Tolentino, Felipe Villaroman and Katrina Lagman

K TRIP. Kate Torralba, our favorite Cebuana

PAINTING the town in party colors...

SUPER POSSE. Anna Banana, Tals Diaz, Gino de la Paz and Monica Llamas

LA TO MANILA. A-lister Anthony Barbers with hot date Kat

V LO! Don'r be fooled by the rocks that she's got, she's still Victoria London from the block

EDDIE BOY ESCUDERO

FLASHY FUN. Giselle Segovia, Robbie Santos and Sheryl Robles

SEALED with a kiss. Pepsi girl Celine Lopez with Echo, er, Marcel Crespo

ADDICTED TO THY SELF. Super! thanks to Addict for sponsoring our anniversary party

BUSINESS AND PLEASURE. Inquirer's Imee Alcantara, Ricky Garcia and Illac Diaz

MEN SHARPEN MEN. Ed Aniel, Angelo Villanueva and Thor

ROCK HARD. ATOM Henares with Nadia and Victoria

TITILLATING TANDEM. Chicho Suarez and GP Reyes

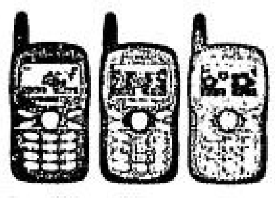
MADAME VIOLET invites you to her boudoir

SHOPPING IN THE MEN'S ROOM. RJ Ledesma, Tessa Valdes and Jenni Epperson

G IN THE
Call 1-800-
RTHANBARE

R-LICKIN' DAMN
Tia, a Filipina
from Italy, flaunts

EDDIE BOY ESCUDERO



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- Vibration alert
- Games

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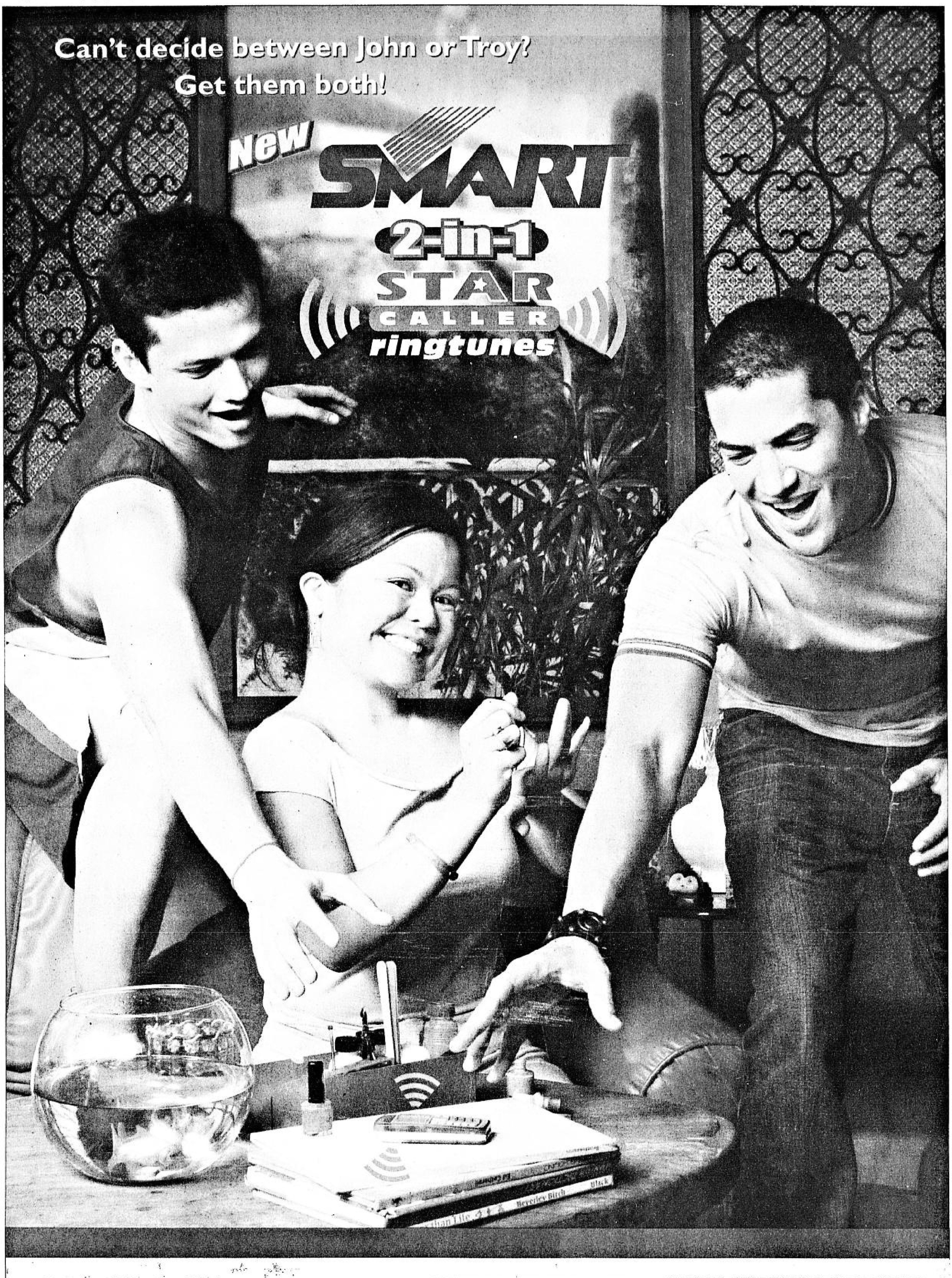

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Busted	Troy Montero & John Ferriols	100798
Masseuse	Troy Montero & John Ferriols	100799
Finished	Aubrey Miles & Ara Mina	100800
Sharing	Aubrey Miles & Ara Mina	100801
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OPM	OPM
OPM Bands	OPMBANDS
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Jokes	JOKES

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Know Title and Ring ID of a Friend's Ringtune	RING LIST <friend's cellphone number> (Ex. RING LIST 09208140940)
Help (for more info on new features)	HELP

VIA IVR (INTERACTIVE VOICE RECORDING)	Call **1513** and follow the voice instructions.
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3340, Series of 2004.

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